



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for October 9, 2022, celebrating Thanksgiving (the Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost).

Pastor Jack Dressler (**519-250-7210**) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

Upcoming Services:

Date	Comment	Pastor / Lay Leader	Reader
October 16		Father Brian	Olga
October 23	No Communion	Greg Peifer	Olga
October 30	100 Anniversary Continues Communion	Bishop Pryse & Pastor Jack	Carol
November 6	All Saints - Communion	Pastor Jack	
November 13	Baptism - Communion	Pastor Jack	
November 20			
November 27	First Day of Advent - Communion	Father Brian	
December 4		Greg Peifer	
December 11	Communion	Pastor Jack	
December 18		Father Brian	
December 24	Christmas Eve - Communion	Pastor Jack	
December 25	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
January 1, 2023	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration Continues:

We will be having a luncheon after the service on October 30 (in the Fellowship Hall), when Bishop Pryse will be in attendance for this service. If you would like to make baked goods for the dessert table, please let Anne Drouillard know.

Our Thanksgiving Outreach

This year, our Thanksgiving outreach will be to help support WINDSOR RESIDENCE FOR YOUNG MEN.

It states on their website: “Windsor Residence for Young Men supports young men 16 to 24 years of age as they leave homelessness behind to build new lives. WRYM provides supportive functional family atmosphere, delivers individual counselling and teaches life skills.” With these skills, the young men will integrate into the community – seeking education, employment and independent living.

Here is a list of a few suggested items needed:

<i>Boxed juices</i>	<i>Canned chili</i>	<i>Canned Manwich</i>
<i>Macaroni</i>	<i>Cereal / snack bars</i>	<i>Peanut butter</i>
<i>Powdered potatoes</i>	<i>Nutella</i>	<i>Deodorant for men</i>
<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Toothpaste</i>	<i>Spaghetti sauce</i>
	<i>Batteries AA</i>	

If you are able, please bring items to church. We will deliver after October 30.

LET’S SHARE OUR BLESSINGS!!!!

Introduction

Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God’s bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus’ word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so “with thanksgiving.” Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbours. We have ignored voices that call for your justice. We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness. We have spoken and acted in ways that disrupt your beloved community. We truly repent of things we have done and left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ.

Amen.

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out, and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *Alleluia.*

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that

he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.”⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house.¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.”¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage.¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’”¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a-c} Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

Psalm: Psalm 100

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.

³ **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.**

⁴ Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God’s holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel,⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon: One in Ten Odds (preached by Pastor Jack Dressler at Trinity on October 9, 2022)

While I have never seen a leper, I have read several stories about them. I know enough about lepers to visualize them almost perfectly in my mind. The characters my creative conscience constructs are older men and women with sore saturated skin. Their hair is long and tangled. Their scent is rank. Their deathly disease severely alters the ordinary tasks of life like walking and talking. In my mind, these are the characteristics of a leper. And, no matter how lepers appear, sound, or smell, they are always outcasts – despised, feared, and rejected by the rest of society.

Have you noticed or even analyzed the homeless woman you pass on your way to work each day? She lies on top of the metal furnace vent, where warm steam escapes and surrounds her fragile frame. You might often see her smoking a cigarette and respond with thoughts of judgment, “if only she didn’t spend so much money on cigarettes and cheap wine, perhaps she could afford a home.” This woman and the companions in her midst are like lepers. They are held at the fringe of society. We fear their scent, loathe their touch, and avoid their communication. We desire to keep a boundary between them and us, seldom doing anything to help them, let alone say “hello” to them. These are the modern day lepers – homeless women and men who struggle to survive in a society that often rejects them and refuses to offer help.

Or what about the gay Christian man or woman who belongs to our parish? Every week, we observe them and their partners, both perfectly dressed, step out of their car and make their way into the sanctuary. We and several members of the church exchange pleasantries and signs of hospitality with both of them. We ask ourselves, “How can they come and worship here each week?” We analyze their moves and predict their motives. The gay Christian is a leper. He or she is accepted neither in the gay community nor in the church.

In the gospel text, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. Just as there are many roads that lead to Toronto, Ontario, there are dozens of roads that lead to Jerusalem. A computer search would instruct a traveler to stay on the two- and four-lane bypasses encircling habitation, avoiding the crowded villages and populated places. Jesus, however, picks the path that enables him to encounter a myriad of individuals with numerous needs.

Jesus enters the village, walking along its center street. Women are busy buying meat and vegetables for the evening meal. Merchants are capturing the crowd with their goods. Children are playing hide and seek between dusty blankets hanging from tents. Ten lepers are painfully entering the edge of the road, yearning to encounter the man of miracles. “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Jesus hears the cry for help, turns around and sees the sick lepers sitting nearly a city block away. He walks a little closer and, with little or no thought, instructs them to go to the temple and see their priests. In a blink of an eye, the lepers are made clean. Scales fall. Eyes open. Pain subsides. Business continues. Nine lepers proceed. One turns back.

The stranger in the midst, a foreigner who is the outcast of society, turns away from the other nine and turns towards Jesus. He offers praise and thanksgiving with both his body and his voice. Ten received healing. One returns thanks. Ten receive healing.

One is saved. The one who returns and offers praise and thanksgiving receives a physical and a spiritual healing. His faith makes him healthy and whole.

Giving gifts requires the art of organization and the gift of prediction. Many of us are not good at accepting gifts without giving something in return. During the month of November, we spend time creating a Christmas list of people for whom we need to purchase a gift. Our list includes our spouses, our parents, our grandparents, our children, our neighbours, and our friends. It holds the names of those with whom we have exchanged gifts in the past. We also take account of those people who beg the question, "What do you want for Christmas this year?" We are good at predicting which friends and family members will be presenting us with gifts. In response, we almost always have a gift to bestow upon them.

There are times, however, when we are caught off guard. When we receive an unexpected gift, our usual response is to go and purchase something for the giver of the gift. When someone picks us up from the airport, we offer to return the favour by taking them to the airport the next time they are scheduled to fly. When we accept an invitation to a friend's party, we make sure to invite this friend to our next party. We prefer even exchanges.

Ten lepers are healed. Nine go on their way. One returns and gives thanks. When it comes to returning gifts and thanksgiving to God, we are more often like the nine lepers who go about their business after being healed, instead of like the one who returns and gives thanks. Our tendency is to be like the nine lepers who go on their way instead of like the one who returns and falls at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus continues to avoid the 401 highway and the autobahn. Jesus desires and designs opportunities where he can encounter a myriad of people in a variety of places – people like you and me. Furthermore, Jesus continues to give great gifts – gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. Some of us have experienced a statistically defying, medical cure. All of us have experienced minor medical healings whether it be the ending of a headache or minor covid, or a scab forming over an open wound. Some of us have experienced deep depression. All of us have walked through dark, painful nights. Some of us have experienced broken bones and bodies. All of us have experienced broken hearts. Some of us have been ostracized by society – pushed to the outskirts because of the colour of our skin, the amount of our paycheck, the ethnic group we come from, or our sexual orientation. All of us have been teased and put down. All of us, every single person in this sanctuary, have been healed. We have been found. We have been

touched. We have encountered the living Christ. We have received his mercy and grace. We have been cleansed.

Through Jesus, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. No response is required. No debt is owed. We can choose to go on our way like the other nine, and many of us do that, or we can also choose to be like the Samaritan who returned. On this Thanksgiving Sunday we can respond to God's faithfulness with praise and thanksgiving.

For we are God's hands, God's heart, God's eyes, and God's ears. In the words of Paul, we are "special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work." We can serve others. We can share what God has generously provided as we are doing today, with our goods going to the Windsor Residence for Young Men. We can tell what God has done in our lives because we are so alive with his love. We can touch those individuals whom Jesus would touch – the poor, the rejected, the battered, and the bruised.

Amen is not an ending. It is a beginning. It is a beginning of countless Hallelujahs and words of Thanksgiving. Ten were healed. Nine went on their way. One returned. Are you the one? Get up and go on your way. Your faith has made you well. **Thanks be to God.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts. Provide homes, food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

In Residence: Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle; Dorothy

Needing our prayers: Ed; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna; Sharon B; Jeffrey; Art

Friends of our Members Needing our prayers: Audrey; Greg; Paul; Hilda; Mary; Anna

...and all members who may have needs unknown to us

And all those we name in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you. Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**