



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

June 30, 2024
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Brown Bag Bible Study returns in July! The noontime study is set for Thursdays and will look at passages from 1 John. The studies are set for July 11, July 18, July 25 and August 1. Join us for a deep and sometimes lively discussion.

Coming Up

July 12 – Our first community dinner since COVID is planned. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m, and the buffet dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be catered by Cramdons and will include chicken, pasta, vegetables, buns and salad. Adult tickets are \$24 each and children tickets are \$12.

September 8 – Back to Church Sunday. After a summer filled with activities, it's time to reset for the Fall and all that it offers. This is a fun family-friendly service based on the writings of Dr. Seuss (there will be a lot of rhyming this morning). As well, there will be a BBQ fellowship after the service. What a great way to start the Fall.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan. Evelyn, Connie.

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeremy, Rachel, Nash

Introduction to the day

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel, Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

WOV #788 Glory to God
ELW #526 God is here
ELW #773 Precious Lord, take my hand
ELW #496 One bread, one body
ELW #785 When peace like a river

Prayer of the day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading: Lamentations 3: 22-33

¹The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
³Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—
⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?”

Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the ^l Lord is good,
for God’s mercy en- ^l dures forever.
²**Let the redeemed of the ^l Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand ^l of the foe,**
³gathering them in ^l from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and ^l from the south.
²³**Some went down to the ^l sea in ships, plying their trade ^l in deep waters.**
²⁴They beheld the works ^l of the Lord, God’s wonderful works ^l in the deep.
²⁵**Then God spoke, and a stormy ^l wind arose, which tossed high the waves ^l of the sea.**
²⁶They mounted up to the heavens

and descended ¹ to the depths;
their souls melted away ¹ in their
peril.

²⁷**They staggered and ¹ reeled like
drunkards,
and all their skill was of ¹ no avail.**

²⁸Then in their trouble they cried ¹ to
the Lord,
and you delivered them from ¹ their
distress.

²⁹**You stilled the storm ¹ to a
whisper
and silenced the waves ¹ of the
sea.**

³⁰Then were they glad when ¹ it grew
calm,
when you guided them to the
harbor ¹ they desired.

³¹**Let them give thanks to you, Lord,
for your ¹ steadfast love
and your wonderful works ¹ for all
people.**

³²Let them exalt you in the
assembly ¹ of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them
sing ¹ hallelujah!

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

¹As we work together with him, we urge
you also not to accept the grace of God
in vain. ²For he says,
“At an acceptable time I have listened
to you,
and on a day of salvation I have
helped you.”
See, now is the acceptable time; see,
now is the day of salvation! ³We are
putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so
that no fault may be found with our

ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we
have commended ourselves in every
way: through great endurance, in
afflictions, hardships,
calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments,
riots, labors, sleepless nights,
hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience,
kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine
love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of
God; with the weapons of righteousness
for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in
honor and dishonor, in ill repute and
good repute. We are treated as
impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as
unknown, and yet are well known; as
dying, and see—we are alive; as
punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor,
yet making many rich; as having
nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you
Corinthians; our heart is wide open to
you. ¹²There is no restriction in our
affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return
—I speak as to children—open wide
your hearts also.

Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41

On that day, when evening had
come, he said to them, “Let us go
across to the other side.” And leaving
the crowd behind, they took him with
them in the boat, just as he was. Other
boats were with him. A great windstorm
arose, and the waves beat into the boat,
so that the boat was already being
swamped. But he was in the stern,
asleep on the cushion; and they woke

him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Sermon

Just a touch

Around this time 12 years ago, I was editing a news page around 2 a.m. and counting down the days until I would leave the newspaper for good. The start of seminary was just two months away.

The decision to make the change has led to a life much different than the one I would have known doing shiftwork in the newsroom.

In the twelve years since I left the newspaper behind, I’ve met more people than I can recall ... made friendships that I treasure ... been to such exotic locations as Israel and Windsor. I have been exposed to the works of gifted theologians and the experiences of mentoring pastors.

I’ve been honoured to walk with so many on their journeys.

As I sat at my desk in the newsroom, I had no idea what lay ahead. The decision had been made ... whatever came next flowed from that decision. I had faith in God’s call to serve

something greater than myself ... to serve others. I had experienced something ... perhaps a touch of the divine ... and it changed things.

So, let me ask this of you ... think about where you were twelve years ago.

Looking back, were there decisions you made that impacted you today? What has happened in the last twelve years?

Twelve years ... this morning in Mark’s gospel, the daughter of an influential religious leader ... Jairus ... is sick. She’s near death.

He comes to Jesus ... begging him ... repeatedly ... to come to his daughter’s aid ... “so she may be made well and live” is how Mark puts it.

The girl is only 12.

Jesus had healed a man who was possessed and left a crowd on the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee ... he calmed the storm as they travelled across the water ... and when they reach the shore, they are greeted by another crowd.

Jesus follows Jairus to the man’s home ... the crowds are pressing in upon them as they were walk through the streets. Suddenly, someone touches Jesus’ clothes and he feels power flow from him.

He stops and turns and faces the crowd ... on the way to save the girl ... an act with some urgency ... Jesus stops and reacts to the reality of the moment.

Jairus must be thinking “you’ve got to be kidding me. Someone touches your

clothes and you just stop? Come on, the clock is ticking.”

Jesus wants to know whose faith has led them to come to him just for a simple touch.

The woman who touched his clothes had been hemorrhaging for 12 years ... coincidentally that's as long as Jairus' daughter has been alive.

But is it really a coincidence in Mark's gospel?

The woman has been excluded from life in the community for the past twelve years.

Everything in her life was forbidden to her.

She could not cook for her family. She could not hold her children. She was considered unclean as one who was under the judgment of God and therefore not allowed to set foot in the synagogue let alone the temple.

She had been impoverished by the doctors who could not cure her.

So, not only is the woman physically suffering, but her affliction almost means a walking death.

Jesus was her last hope.

Jairus' daughter is on the edge of adult life in the ancient world.

At twelve, she can be married ... leaving her father's house and beginning a family ... bringing two families together for their mutual benefit. For twelve years, Jairus and his wife enjoyed the pleasures and faced the challenges of parenthood. They nurtured and taught her ... they watched her grow toward adulthood.

Now, all that promise is in doubt. She is dying.

In fact, as Jesus spoke to the woman, people came from Jairus' home to tell him not to bother the teacher any longer ... it's too late ... the girl is dead. There's no point in going on ... it's hopeless.

Jesus' response?

“Do not fear, only believe.”

... “Do not fear, only believe.”

At Jairus' home, amid the scoffing from the crowd, Jesus takes the girl's hand and tells her to arise. Like the woman in the street, death made the young girl ritually unclean.

Now, she rises ... her life renewed.

This is a story about how Jesus' ministry ... overflowing with God's abundant love ... how it heals as it fills hearts and lives ... bringing restoration and renewed life.

The woman in the street ... Jairus and his daughter ... are all broken in one way or another.

The woman's affliction means that she cannot be a full participant in life ... Jairus has lost his daughter ... and the daughter has succumbed to her illness. They are all ... in their own ways ... broken and empty.

Jesus ... through his acts in this passage ... mends the breaks and fills them with renewed life. ... “only believe” and they are restored ... body and soul.

These moments of when people experience Jesus can't help but change lives.

Think about the crowd in this passage ... wanting to see the miracles,

but perhaps too scared to step forward themselves.

What about the mourners? The girl's mother? The woman's family?

All these people are affected by these moments, but go unmentioned or unconsidered in Mark's gospel. We're not told about them, so we can only imagine where the healing of the woman and the girl takes them.

Perhaps their belief led to a life of discipleship.

We don't know.

We in the here and now are in a period of the church year when discipleship ... what it offers us and the world ... what is expected of disciples ... is the focus. In this time after Pentecost ... Green is the colour that marks the sanctuary ... green is the colour of renewed life.

Congregations across the synod are in the midst of renewal ... even those whose doors are closing are renewing their outreach ... their ministries ... their way serving ... even how they worship.

Congregations are changing the ways they experience Jesus ... of how they bring grace into the world.

Delegates at the Synod Assembly last weekend made a number of decisions that will affect congregations across the synod ... and a few that could be felt across the country.

We have a new bishop ... the synod's first woman bishop ... a pastor from Saskatchewan no less;

We have a new vice-chair for Synod Council ... the first from the Maritimes;

The Synod Council is reloaded with youth and diverse voices who'll help guide the synod into the future.

Delegates affirmed our position on climate change and carbon neutrality ... on battling racism ... on tackling ableism in congregations and in their communities ... and on dealing with declining attendance and the number of rostered leaders expected to remain standing.

What will the synod look like in 12 years?

It will be dramatically different than it is now ... but as Jesus says, do not fear, only believe.

It is Bishop Michael Pryse's final report to the synod that relates to this morning's lesson.

Pryse told the gathering that he is full of hope for the life of the synod because of the resiliency and adaptability of its congregations and their members.

He ended his report with these words:

"I know that we are united in our shared love of the Gospel and in the transforming power of the Gospel to guide us regardless of circumstances."

Like the woman in the street ... stretching out her hand to simply touch Jesus' clothes ... faithfully knowing that Jesus' love will heal her ... like the daughter whose life was over and yet was raised up to new life by that same love ... we can be assured that God's love offers us that same promise to fill us.

Jesus told Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe." These words speak to our sense of emptiness ... an emptiness

that can be caused by anxiety over change ... change in our lives and in our congregations ... Do not fear, only believe.

Look to Jesus.

In him, all of our endings will be changed into new beginnings ... because ultimately love has the final word.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

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

May the Holy Parent ignite the fires of advocacy in your heart
May the Spirit place the scroll of knowledge on your tongue in tough conversations
May the Son + walk with you as you march with your queer siblings.

AMEN

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS...

PrideFest takes place in August and Trinity will be there. Thanks to a

synodical grant, Trinity members will be walking in the August 11 parade and manning a table welcoming people to all Trinity has to offer as an affirming community. We're looking for walkers and people to represent the congregation at the table. Contact Pastor Chris or Dagmar to volunteer.

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our membership records. If you would like a visit from Pastor Chris, please call the church office and leave a message. Pastor Chris would be happy to visit and bring you communion, if you have difficulty attending church services.



Trinity's Confirmation classes are planned to restart in the Fall. The Confirmation program is two-years long. The classes are an hour in length once a week. Each year runs from the end of September to early December and from mid-January to Easter. If your child has been baptized Lutheran, please consider enrolling them in the program. Email the church office or DM for more information.

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____ .00) per month
Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.