



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

July 28, 2024
10th 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 is concluding! The noontime study looks at passages from 1 John and finishes on July 30. Join us for a deep and sometimes lively discussion.

Coming Up

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, Connie, Lorraine.

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

Introduction to the day

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

WOV #788 Glory to God

WOV # 777 In the morning when I rise

ELW # 689 Praise and thanksgiving

ELW #496 One bread, one body

ELW # 767 Lord take my hand and lead me

Prayer of the day

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Psalm 145:10-18

¹⁰All your works shall praise ^l you, O Lord,
and your faithful ^l ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory ^l of your kingdom**

and speak ^l of your power,

¹²that all people may know ^l of your power

and the glorious splendor ^l of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- ^l out all ages.**

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in ^l all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all ^l those who fall and lifts up those who ^l are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon ^l you, O Lord,**

and you give them their food ^l in due season.

¹⁶You open ^l wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every ^l living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in ^l all your ways**

and loving in ^l all your works.

¹⁸You are near to all who ^l call upon you,

to all who call up- ^l on you faithfully.

Second reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in

heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: John 6: 1-21

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a l



ittle." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the

world.”

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Sermon

Work from Abundance

May God’s peace and grace be in abundance with you this morning and always.

I remember standing in the Fellowship Hall last Fall discussing my plans for offering communion.

I had made it known that ... when I was present ... Trinity would offer communion each week. If you remember, in the past, communion was

offered twice a month. The other Sundays offered Services of the Word.

There were some objections to the change ...

... do you know how much wine we’ll go through ... it will cost us a fortune!

... do you know how much bread we’ll need ... where will it all come from?

... this will place a burden on the altar guild. Who’s going to set up the altar every Sunday?

... it will add too much time to the length of the service.

I’ll admit that this last one caught me a bit by surprise ... that the singular focused moment of community and worship on a Sunday morning could be tossed because of time ... that people could consider other things more important than the act of communing together.

I pointed out that this isn’t the old days when people showed up every Sunday ... as much as we wished otherwise.

Work and family schedules mean that people attend when they can and what if they can only come on a Sunday when there wasn’t communion?

Who knows how much time would pass before they could commune?

Besides it seemed like an unreasonable limit on being in community.

And then there was the conversation when I suggested a potluck dinner as part of a mid-week service.

I was told potlucks never work at Trinity because not enough people will make food ... I'll pause for a moment so we can share a chuckle over that one.

Of course, we all know that we've had potlucks during the past several months and that there has been ample food each time.

All these points of view come from a sense of fear and scarcity ... that there won't be enough ... enough money ... enough people ... enough time ... that we need to be frugal with what we have.

In modern times, scarcity is a myth.

We are led to believe that there isn't enough ... that we don't have enough ... so we always need to get more ... because only when we have more can we feel whole.

The problem is that when you believe this, there is never enough and you're never filled.

Abundance then becomes a foreign concept.

We are greeted this morning with a passage about scarcity and abundance.

John shares with us that Jesus and the disciples are in the Galilee.

Word has spread about all that they have done and the crowds flock to Jesus whenever and wherever he is recognized.

Jesus and the disciples are on a hillside on the shores of the lake ... when Jesus realizes that the thousands of people coming toward them must be hungry ... seeking something that will sustain them. Jesus decides this would

be a good test for a disciple, so he asks Philip:

"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

Philip ... scans the crowd and with a sense of practicality ... tells Jesus that it would take months of wages just so the people could get a morsel of something.

But Andrew remembers seeing a boy with a lunch ... five small barley loaves ... a poor person's diet ... and a couple of small fish. It hardly sounds a banquet for a multitude.

Without a word, the boy offers his meal of bread and fish.

I wonder what went through the boy's mind ... standing there in the midst of this vast multitude of people ... having this stranger ask for his loaves and fish ... telling him that this will feed all the people sitting on the grassy hillside.

Did he ... like the bean-counter Philip ... look at the crowd and the supply of food and believe that people will go hungry that day? Did the boy look at the world through the lens of scarcity ... believing that the loaves and fish would not be enough?

Or did the boy look around and recognize that he was about to witness something wondrous?

Jesus blesses the bread and offered it to the gathering himself. Jesus feeds the thousands ... holding nothing back ... nothing just in case. Jesus signals the abundance that comes through him.

In the end, the multitude was fed ... where Philip saw scarcity, an abundance was the reality. Jesus'

actions proclaim something grander than simply have a meal.

On the hill in Galilee this morning, the people could eat as much as they wanted and when their hunger was satisfied, Jesus had the disciples collect the remainders and twelve baskets were filled.

Nothing was lost or wasted ... there was no shortage ... scarcity had no place in the people's lives that day.

Their lives were transformed.

Let's step back to the start of this sermon.

We've gone to weekly communion and ... we've yet to run out of wine.

In fact, there have been times when we've had to serve more than planned ... and that is a fantastic problem for a church to have!

... there is always ample fresh bread and somehow the congregation's bottom line doesn't feel it;

... people under Carol's guidance have stepped up and become even more involved in this great family of faith by setting the table for the meal.

Rather than scarcity, we should recognize that we live in abundance. We need to continually remember that there is:

... an abundance of resources ... both known and unknown;

... an abundance of love through our faith-filled acts.

This doesn't mean we blindly move forward into situations or recklessly drain resources ... we do need a Philip or two among us to survey the

landscape and ask "how" rather than "should we?" ... and it means we need to be bold in whatever we do knowing that God is with us.

This means we need to recognize the gifts and resources that are present ... and know that there are talents and resources that are hidden from view.

More than 30 years ago, Bishop Desmond Tutu told a student gathering that ... "We without God cannot, God without us will not."

... God without us will not.

The boy this morning made a humble offering and God did something miraculous with it. Jesus offered the loaves and fish ... carrying them out among the people and so they could experience the abundance of love that was present in the world.

Imagine what God can accomplish when we offer our time and resources in ministry to others. Imagine the multitudes ... stretching out from one life to the next ... that will be nourished through the love we share through word and action.

Perhaps, we could consider the baskets carried off the hillside by the disciples. Baskets filled with God's blessings and signs of God's presence in the world.

What if we considered our congregation a basket?

A congregation of abundance ... a basket filled with blessings and love ... offering sustenance for those who hunger for such love.

What if we carried such blessings and love out from this place in the baskets formed by our hearts? Think of the multitudes who can be fed ... the lives touched through our ministry.

What if ... in our ministry to the world ... we just asked “how can we feed” rather than “can we feed?”

On the hill on that lakeshore, Jesus held nothing back from the multitude seeking a chance to be fed ... and centuries later we struggle to recognize and act out of that same sense of abundance.

What if we embrace Paul’s message this morning ... that God’s power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

When we act boldly in this knowledge ... we transform not just the lives of those we feed ... we transform those who feed them.

The view of the world changes ... gifts are no longer wasted by remaining under or unused. We no longer hide gifts and talents behind the cover of being frugal.

Scarcity and fear become replaced by abundance and hope.

And in that hope the baskets remain full ... all are fed ... all are satisfied ... all are loved.

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 August 9-11 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 also selling “Trinity Lutheran Church” T-shirts. Sizes S-XL are \$20 and XXL-XXXL are \$23. If you’d like a shirt, contact the church office with the size and colour you’d like. The shirts are available in green, blue, purple, red, orange, and yellow.

**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.