



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

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September 22, 2024  
18<sup>th</sup> 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** recommences on October 9. The noontime study sessions will look at the coming Sunday's readings. Bring your lunch and we'll supply the coffee, tea or water. Join us for a deep and lively discussion.

### **Coming Up**

**The All Saints Service** is scheduled for Nov. 3. This is the service in which we remember the saints in our lives who have gone on to the kingdom. The service will include a guest musician and is intended to assist attendees with processing their sense of grief. You are invited to bring a candle (a votive is preferred) to light and place before the altar. If you don't have a candle or forgot to bring one, don't worry. We'll have some available.

#### **We Remember in our Prayers**

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

**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 we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

Inshallah # 40 God welcomes all  
ELW # 815 – I want to walk as a child of  
the light

ELW # 641 All are welcome

ELW #635 We walk by faith

### Prayer of the day

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord..

**AMEN**

### First reading: Jeremiah 11: 18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

<sup>20</sup>But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my

cause.

### Psalm 54

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, <sup>1</sup> by your name;  
in your might, de- <sup>1</sup> fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my <sup>1</sup> prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words <sup>1</sup> of my  
mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have <sup>1</sup> sought my life,

those who have no re- <sup>1</sup> gard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God <sup>1</sup> is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sus- <sup>1</sup> tains my  
life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who <sup>1</sup> spy on me;  
in your faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a <sup>1</sup> freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord,  
for <sup>1</sup> it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from <sup>1</sup> every trouble,  
and my eye looks down <sup>1</sup> on my enemies.

### Second reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is

envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

### **Gospel:** Mark 9: 30-37

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on

the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”



### **Sermon**

#### **Be selfless**

There's an alley next to the Street Help shelter.

When you make a delivery to the shelter's kitchen, you have to drive a few

metres up the alley and bring the items in through a side door.

Up the alley from that door are four or five dumpsters set behind various buildings and it seems they are always full or overflowing and ... more often than not ... someone can be seen dumpster diving ... that is ... crawling through the garbage looking for food or something of value.

When I took Trinity's food offerings to the kitchen a couple of weeks ago, it was no different ... until it was.

A woman was standing next to one of the dumpsters ... looking at a boy crawling around on top of the garbage.

After a moment, he handed something down to her ... jumped down ... and the pair walked up the alley toward the next dumpster.

A child ... rooting through garbage ... near the heart of the city ... just blocks from here and a few steps from a shelter.

I'd like to believe that this was an isolated incident ... I really would like to believe that ... but in my heart I know better. I have heard from people working and traveling in the downtown and even out as far out as the university, that dumpsters have become a food source for the city's homeless and at-risk residents.

In Windsor, twenty-three percent ... almost one in four ... children live in poverty.

This means almost one in four families rely on food banks ... on shelter kitchens, breakfast programs and ... in

what I pray are only the most extreme cases ... on dumpsters.

These are our vulnerable ... adults and children alike.

A child is at the centre of Jesus' lesson this morning.

Once again, Jesus tells the disciples what awaits the Son of Man in Jerusalem. He tells them ... again ... that the Son of Man will be betrayed, killed and will rise in three days.

The disciples ... once again ... don't understand what he has tried to explain to them.

Last week, we heard Jesus foretell his fate and Peter rebukes Jesus for his words ... only to rebuke himself.

This week, the disciples still don't understand Jesus' lesson and are too afraid to ask follow-up questions ... so they remain silent.

Now, as they are walking toward Capernaum, Jesus overhears them arguing over something ... it's clear he knows over what.

The disciples had been arguing over who is the greatest among them. Whose ministry has set them apart from the other eleven?

They had had watched Jesus heal and ease people's suffering and still but they were more concerned about status and prestige gained through their ministry efforts rather than on the ministry itself.

They want to know who will be the greatest ... who gets the most credit for their ministry efforts and all the privileges that offers.

They want to know who gets most gold stars.

Jesus sits down ... motions the twelve to join him ... you can just picture the thirteen of them ... sitting cross-legged on the floor of someone's house.

He tells the gathering that status in this world doesn't matter in the kingdom that is to come. What matters is how you treat others ... especially the world's vulnerable.

Then, he brings a child into the gathering to illustrate his point.

Children ... both now and during biblical times ... are among the most vulnerable.

The child Jesus held as he sat on the floor had no status in the world ... they were property to be used ... traded ... or sold. Many were put to work as soon as they were able. We aren't told if the child is a boy or a girl ... girls held even lower value than boys.

Children, then, were among the marginalized ... oppressed ... and victimized. They are dependent upon others for their survival and well-being.

I think it's interesting ... and important ... that everyone is seated ... and on the same level as the child. No one looks down on the child ... none of the disciples are greater than anyone else in the room.

There is a visible sense of equality in this scene.

Maybe that's why the disciples were silent when Jesus asked them what they were arguing about during the journey.

Maybe the disciples finally recognized the difference in Jesus' approach to ministering to others and their own ... that they sought to be recognized and honoured for their work ... is the reason they remained silent when Jesus questioned them.

Maybe they were embarrassed ... as they have should been.

Jesus modelled selfless service for the disciples and his other followers. The disciples forgot that lesson ... as we do sometimes.

When we serve the vulnerable among us, we do so because it is the right thing to do ... it is what we are called to do.

It is how we bear witness to the divine love in our lives.

Status or prestige or power cannot be considerations for serving others or serving the church. Sadly, for some, being recognized is what it's all about.

Jesus' message to the twelve is that serving the vulnerable among us is all that matters. To set your minds on earthly things makes doing the divine almost impossible.

Just before this morning's story in Mark, Jesus drives an unclean spirit out of a boy and then lifts the boy to renewed life. Jesus' act was in answer to a father's plea and AFTER the disciples were unsuccessful in their attempts at healing the child.

The disciples are puzzled over their inability to help the child. This morning, Jesus shows them why.

Were their efforts distracted by other concerns? Did their concerns over

status and prestige already weaken the effects of their ministry?

Jesus ... by bringing the child into the circle of disciples ... flips the expectations of who is the greatest. Jesus places value on those the world considers unworthy or lacking.

The greatest are those we serve.

Before the world tells them otherwise, children relate to others and to the world around them without an expectation of receiving or gaining anything in return. Jesus instructs his followers to serve in the same way ... without expectation ... with the focus on the vulnerable of the world ... the child and the adult alike.

And this is the wonder of grace ... it is a gift to us that we are called to share without thinking of ourself. It is a gift that is fully realized through selfless service to others.

Such grace goes against the world's values ... it is a radical approach to the world and one that Jesus modelled for his followers.

Jesus suffered and died because he cared for those considered sinners and for the most vulnerable in the world ... the least of these is how Jesus puts it. So, there is a risk in what Jesus calls the disciples to do ... the radical grace Jesus calls us toward carries risk, as well as reward.

Theologian Elizabeth Johnson once wrote that:

“The radical grace that Jesus proclaims and lives completely obliterates the world's notions of greatness based on status, wealth,

achievement. Perhaps, that is one reason why we resist grace so much.”

But it is through grace that we serve others ... that we love others.

When we minister to the least of these ... those who are hungry and suffering from the world's indifference ... suspicions ... and even hatred ... when we minister to them without a thought of what we ourselves gain ... we make visible the kingdom on earth.

We nourish with hope and love as much as with food.

That boy crawling on top of the dumpster ... the woman who stood waiting for him ... the person sleeping in the park ... the people carrying signs and searching for the protection of and for their community ... the people who desperately seek loving care ... those are the ones that we are called to serve ... selflessly serve ... to place them at the centre of our discipleship.

This morning Jesus calls the disciples to consider ... deeply consider ... what motivates their efforts ... is it love for one another ... or is to feed some more personal worldly need.

When we serve either those in need or even to support the church and its efforts ... we are called to do so without personal considerations ... that is ... without seeking credit or increased status. We are to serve out of love and our call to serve God and one another ... must be anchored in the unconditional love we have received.

May that be our only consideration.

**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**

## EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS...

**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 through the congregation's Facebook page for more information.

**October 6** – As followers of Christ, we are called to be wise stewards of creation. Pets are important parts of our families and, in honour of St. Francis, our regular Sunday service will include a blessing of animals and our pets. You are welcome to bring your well-mannered, socialized pet to the service, but owners are responsible for their behaviour and are expected to prevent and/or clean up any messes. Please leave any horses, cows and donkeys on the front lawn. We'll bless them there.

**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.