



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

October 13, 2024
21^h 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, Brenda

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

Introduction to the day

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

INSHALLAH # 40 God welcomes all
ELW # 808 Lord Jesus you shall be my
song

ELW # 804 Come down love divine
WOV #722 Hallelujah! We sing your
praises

Prayer of the day

Generous God,
your Son gave his life that we might
come to peace with you. Give us a
share of your Spirit, and in all we do
empower us to bear the name of Jesus
Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶Seek the Lord and live,
or he will break out against the
house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no
one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to
wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the
ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in
the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks
the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on
the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
¹²For I know how many are your
transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take
a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the
gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep
silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will
be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of
hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of
Joseph.

Psalm 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to
wisdom.

¹³**Return, O Lord; how long will
you tarry?**

Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in
the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all
our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as
you afflicted us
and as many years as we**

suf-^l fered adversity.

¹⁶Show your ser-^l vants your works,
and your splendor^l to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord
our God^l be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
pros-^l per our handiwork.**

Second reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel: 10: 17-31

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you



call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another,

“Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Sermon

Dump the baggage

Kaiser Wilhelm II set the standard for arrogance.

The Kaiser held long grudges for any perceived insult to him, his family or to Germany. He was used to getting whatever he wanted ... bullying people if the circumstances called for it.

But the Kaiser did consider himself a fashionista.

Which means he liked to dress well.

He designed more than 150 military uniforms that he had tucked away in his closet ... each to fit his mood or the occasion.

The Kaiser even designed the uniform for his army ... which included a long woolen coat and a spiked helmet. They may have looked fancy in a

parade, but weren't very useful on the battlefield.

In 1898, the Kaiser took a tour of the Ottoman Empire that included a visit to Jerusalem.

His group travelled the Jaffa Road and planned to enter the city through the Jaffa Gate ... one of the seven gates that provided access to walled Old City.

The Jaffa Gate ... which is also known as the Gate of David's Prayer Shrine ... was built in 1538 and is located in the middle of the western wall. It was the main entrance to that part of the city and marked the eastern end of the Jaffa Road.

But there was a problem ... the gate was designed for pilgrims who travelled on foot with few possessions and not for the arrival of large processions of carriages and the many possessions they brought with them.

The Ottomans had built the entryway in an L-shape and placed heavy doors at both ends.

The gate was too low and the entry too narrow to allow the Kaiser and his 200-member entourage and carriages to enter.

The Kaiser was tall and rode a very tall horse and let's not forget his spiked helmet and it was soon discovered that the top of the gateway was also too low.

The Kaiser couldn't travel through the gate without bowing his head ... which is something a pilgrim might do ... but not someone who is as important as the Kaiser ... especially in the presence of the Jewish population ... whom ... by the way ... he despised.

Rather than enter the city like a conquering hero through another gate, the Kaiser convinced the Turkish officials in Jerusalem to breach in the wall near the Jaffa Gate and smooth the entrance so he, his entourage and all their possessions could enter there.

More than a century later, the breach is still in use today. It allows cars to enter the Old City near David's tower.

In this morning's passage from Mark, Jesus and the disciples are beginning their journey to Jerusalem when a man runs up and kneels before Jesus.

He asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life.

Jesus asks the man if he has kept the commandments ... and names the ones that deal with how he relates to the people around him ... and Jesus adds one ... do not defraud others.

The man tells Jesus that he has kept the law he was young.

Jesus looks at the man ... loves him ... and tells him that keeping the commandments isn't enough ... there is one more thing that he needs to do ... sell all his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor.

He is to share the blessings of his wealth.

If he does this, then he will inherit a treasure in heaven.

The man is crestfallen and just walks away. He believes it's just too much to ask of him ... he cannot unburden himself of possessions. They are his identity to the world. These are the things that make him known.

For now ... at least ... we know his mind was on earthly rather than on divine things.

Charles Campbell is a professor at Duke Divinity School.

Campbell wrote about Jesus' instructions:

"Jesus speaks his sharp words to the rich man out of love, because he wants him to be free, though Jesus is clearly aware that the depth of the man's captivity makes such freedom difficult if not impossible."

For listeners, it's a simple lesson ... you want eternal life? Then, serve the poor and do not be preoccupied with gathering wealth or possessions. To place such importance on wealth and possessions is an illness.

So, this is not a salvation story ... this is a healing story.

The man comes to Jesus ... kneels before him ... like others who have sought Jesus' healing touch ... Jesus sees the weakness within him and tells him where the cure lies.

The drive to collect wealth and possessions is a form of self-medication ... The man tries to fill a need or to mend a wound in his spirit ... But this drive also becomes part of the illness that keeps a person from fully and truly loving God and neighbour.

Jesus' words then are a prescription for wholeness for the man and for the community around him. Jesus offers him an open door to new life ... share the blessings you have received ... if he could only take the difficult first step forward.

After the man leaves, Jesus laments that wealth gets in the way of people's path to the kingdom. Their burdens ... their possessions ... are like the largest animal in Palestine trying to pass through the smallest known opening. ... a camel going through the eye of a needle. Or ... centuries later ... a Kaiser trying to get through a narrow gate.

The baggage ... both actual and spiritual ... that the Kaiser carried made such a trip impossible. Entitlement and wealth made it impossible.

All he had to do was leave the carriages and baggage outside the gate and bow his head as he entered the city.

Jesus doesn't condemn wealth ... just the effects it can have on a person and a community. Wealth was seen as a blessing ... and it still is viewed that way by some ... Jesus' instructions are to share that blessing for the benefit of others rather than to selfishly hold on to it.

Perhaps, Jesus is not just speaking of material possessions.

Jesus' words can be heard as a call to unburden ... to dump the baggage ... to cleanse our hearts of the things that get in the way of truly loving God and one another.

When this happens ... the kingdom becomes known through our sharing of the inheritance.

What the wealthy man calls inheritance, we call grace.

We know that grace isn't framed by earthly things. It cannot be earned through our actions; it is a gift freely given.

And because it is freely given, grace is a foreign concept to the man ... just as it is for anyone who places wealth and possessions first in their hearts.

The man believes he has to earn the inheritance and forgets one of the basic facts about inheritances.

Like grace, you ... theoretically ... don't have to do anything to receive an inheritance. It is the result of someone else's actions.

It is the product of a relationship.

After all, to inherit something means that a connection ... a relationship ... exists. It means that ... in one form or another ... you are part of a family. In the truest sense, family members take care of one another ... and make others' welfare a priority.

And Jesus speaks to a family of faith.

The events that will come down the road in Jerusalem led to our inheritance ... to the grace we have received.

What we carry ... what influences our lives and affects these relationships ... isn't necessarily something we can touch ... but it is something we can hold.

Remember, Jesus just said sell what you own.

Wealth ... what we own ... may not refer to money or even to material things ... we can carry a wealth of other things that make living a life of love ... of discipleship ... difficult.

We are called to cleanse our hearts ... to prepare it ... and our being ... for what is to come. ... to unburden ourselves ... unpack and discard the baggage we carry ... to bring



perspective on what has worth and what, in the end, is worthless and to strive for selflessness in a time that places a priority on self.

And to reject the things that keep us from fully embracing and feeling God's love ... to reject the things that keep us from allowing the wealth ... allowing our inheritance ... grace ... God's love to flow ... to be shared with the world ... and be experienced in its full measure.

And all we need to do is dump our baggage ...

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.

Reformation Sunday is October 27. It is the day we mark Martin Luther's actions that led to the Reformation. You are encouraged to wear red that day as an affirmation of your discipleship.

**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.