



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

January 12, 2025
Baptism of our Lord

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.

Coming Up

Annual Congregational Meeting - Trinity's Congregational Council has set February 9, 2025, as the date for the next ACM. The meeting will follow the worship service and will include a potluck meal. The Annual Report will be available at the end of January. While all are welcome to attend the meeting, only active members can vote on any matters.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Edda, Joan, Susan, Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

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

Thames Area Clergy: Rev. Chris Krejlgaard, Trinity/Windsor

Introduction to the day

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ACS #916 Down Galilee's slow
roadways

ELW #459 Wade in the water

ELW #396 Spirit of Gentleness

Prayer of the day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are
mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I
will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall
not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall
not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume
you.



³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your
Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for
you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my
sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the
east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them
up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of
the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalm: 29

¹ Ascribe to the ^l Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- ^l ry and
strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory ^l due
God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- ^l ty
of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the
waters; the God of ^l glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the ^l mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a
pow- ^l erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a ^l voice
of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks
the ^l cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- ^l dars of
Lebanon;

⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip ^l like
a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ^l young
wild ox.**

⁷ The voice ^l of the Lord
bursts forth in ^l lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord ^l shakes the
wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- ^l ness
of Kadesh. R**

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak
trees writhe and strips the ^l forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all
are ^l crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned a- ^l bove
the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king
for- ^l evermore.**

¹¹ O Lord, give strength ^l to your

people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- ^l ings
of peace.

Second reading: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had accepted the
word of God, they sent Peter and John
to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and
prayed for them that they might receive
the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had
not come upon any of them; they had
only been baptized in the name of the
Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid
their hands on them, and they received
the Holy Spirit.



Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon

Love shows up

One of my favourite movies at Christmas time is “Home Alone.”

In this movie, the McCallisters and their extended family gather at their Chicago home the day before they all leave to spend Christmas in Paris.

Kevin ... who is eight years old ... is picked on by his brothers, sisters and cousins. Kevin ruins dinner when he gets into a fight with his older brother ...

Buzz. Kevin’s mother ... Kate ... sends him to the attic as a punishment for the incident.

Kevin ... angry with his family’s treatment of him ... wishes they would just disappear.

Wind knocks out power to the house during the evening ... which means that all the alarm clocks have been knocked out as well.

The family wakes up late and has to rush to the airport to catch their flight. In the confusion, Kevin is forgotten and left behind.

When Kevin wakes up ... he discovers that the house is empty and the family cars are still in the garage. His wish ... it appears ... has come true.

Kevin is overjoyed at his new freedom ... but it’s not long before he becomes afraid after encountering a scary neighbour and a couple of burglars.

Kevin’s mother realizes that he is missing during the flight to Paris

At the Paris airport, the family is told that all flights are booked for the next two days. They can’t get back home until then. Adding to the problem is that phone service in Chicago is out.

The family is stuck in Paris ... and has no way of reaching Kevin.

Meanwhile, Kevin is left to fend for himself.

Through ingenuity and trickery, he manages to get food and run some errands.

Kevin designs a number of traps to protect him and his home from the burglars who finally discover that he is

home alone. Meanwhile, Kevin begins to miss his family and asks a mall Santa to grant him one wish ... that his family reappear.

There are plenty of laughs when the burglars spring the traps. The incidents are so funny that it is easy to overlook the subplot ... Kate's efforts to get to her son.

She doesn't wait the two days in Paris ... she negotiates her way onto a flight back to the United States. Kate even travels with a polka band in the back of a Uhaul van.

She does what she needs to do to show up and be with her son ... to let him know that he is loved and not forgotten. In fact, the entire family returns to be with Kevin.

Love shows up.

Love just shows up this morning in Luke's story of Jesus' baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit.

Luke brings us to the Jordan River to join John and the crowd.

John has already told the gathering how repentance changes their lives and how they should respond to their baptism ... seeking justice in the world ... feeding the hungry ... clothing the poor and by not taking advantage of others.

Now, John tells the gathering that someone greater than him will arrive ... that he is not worthy to untie the sandals of the one who is to come.

Rather than make some grand entrance, Jesus just shows up.

Jesus stands among the people ... baptized by someone who considers

himself unworthy ... a man who lives on the margins of society. In Luke's gospel, Jesus gives value to all of them simply by being a presence in their midst.

Jesus is in prayer after his baptism when the heavens open, and a voice declares him to be the beloved son.

Once the voice affirms his identity, Jesus begins his public ministry.

It is a formula we still follow ... baptism ... affirmation ... discernment ... action.

Jesus ... God's love incarnate ... begins to show up in unexpected places with unexpected people ... on a lake shore ... at a tax collectors' booth ... at a well. Jesus appears where there is pain or hunger or isolation.

Love continues to show up.

Through baptism ... our identity is affirmed.

The repentance that John calls for people to offer meant they turned away from the values, expectations and behaviours of the old age ... baptism washed all that away and joined them as a community ... a community who was assured their lives would not be dictated by the brokenness of the world ... but rather, through love.

Through baptism, the people at the river's edge ... and those at the font ... are joined together ... called to move in a new direction ... all relating with the world in a different way ... and discerning the way forward through prayer.

Through prayer the Spirit marks the relationship ... anoints us ... affirms us as beloved children of God and for us to

fully and deeply live into the love we have received ... a love that is transforming.

Justo L. González is a Cuban-American Methodist historian and theologian.

He notes that social justice is at heart of Luke's gospel ... of John's preaching ... and of Jesus' ministry to the world.

Baptism changes things ... or at the very least holds the promise of change.

If we are true to John's direction ... if we are true to Jesus' ministry and teachings ... then the ways of the world can help but be transformed.

The hungry are fed ...

The suffering are comforted ...

The cold are clothed ...

Greed is abandoned ...

Self-interest and self-importance fall away and are discarded.

In Gonzalez's words, people are satisfied with what is rightfully theirs and don't desire more than that.

The point of baptism, he wrote, is not "ecclesial maintenance, but an outpouring of the Spirit and a revelation of God's Beloved where one least expects it. Such an outpouring has the power to reframe and restructure the world."

The season of Epiphany provides us with an occasion to consider how the work of restructuring is proceeding ... and given the recent state of affairs ... how much it is and will be needed in the days ahead.

How love needs to show up.

In the aftermath of Friday's snowy mess, those of us who staffed yesterday's clothing giveaway wondered if anyone would brave the snow and come to the church.

There was a line at the door before we had finished putting the narthex tables in place. People showed up ... they have a need ... some a desperate need ... and Trinity was able to address it because Trinity showed up.

Not only that, but one mother donated two bags of children's clothes that her daughter had outgrown ... just as she arrived to see if there were suitable clothes for her child.

Love showed up ... in the crowd and through our ministry ... love showed up.

That's the takeaway ... show up and the Spirit works through us ... be a presence ... serve others and you live into the promise of baptism.

So, as we recall our baptism or those baptisms when we stood alongside children at the font, maybe we can consider a couple of questions:

How does love show up at Trinity?

How does love show up through Trinity?

We need to look for the things that get in the way of sharing the grace ... the love ... we have received ... that keep us from traveling into uncomfortable places to ensure people are not left forgotten or to ensure they feel welcome in the community.

When we show up ... when we are a presence ... love enters the scene ... grace is experienced ... people know they are not forgotten or discarded.

When we show up ... so does love.

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

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

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.

RIC Sunday – is January 26. Each year, on the last Sunday in January, we celebrate what it means to live a theology of reconciliation and our ongoing work of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church.

Communication is the key to a healthy congregation and a strong ministry. If you have a suggestion, a concern or a comment, share it with a council member or with Pastor Chris.

**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.