



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

February 9, 2025
5th Sunday in Epiphany

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

You can order your own copy of the hymnal All Creation Sings (ACS). We have a request from a couple of members to purchase this supplement to the red hymnal. If you would like your own copy, let the church office know by Feb. 28 and we'll order one for you. The cost is \$23 and be made as an offering to the church (which gives you a tax benefit).

Midweek Holden Services will be part of our Lenten Season. The informal services will take place in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 12. There will be a simple meal at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

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

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

Thames Area Clergy: Retired Rostered (not serving congregations): Jim Garey, Tom Ristine, Glenn Sellick, Bob Zimmerman, Jack Dressler

Introduction to the day

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW #696 Jesus calls over the tumult

ELW #574 Here I am, Lord

ELW #665 Rise, shine, you people

Prayer of the day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading Isaiah 6:1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me,



holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Psalm: 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with ¹ my whole heart; before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove all things.

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me; you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O Lord, when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the Lord, that great is the glory ¹ of the Lord.

⁶ The Lord is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly, perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand shall save me.

⁸ You will make good your pur- ¹ pose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ¹ of your hands.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the

twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.



Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had

gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Sermon

Deep waters

My godparents have a camp about an hour west of Sudbury. I know ... I know ... around here we call them cottages.

The camp has been in their family since my godfather skied several kilometres across the lake to stake the

plot of land during the dead of a Northern Ontario winter in the early '50s.

Now, their children and grandchildren enjoy camp life ... sorry, sorry ... I mean cottage life.

I always appreciated my visits to the cottage since I began going there when I was around ten.

It sits on a large island and requires a 30-minute boat ride to get there. Since it's so far into the northern bush, there are no electronic distractions. It's place to recharge in the beauty and serenity of nature.

For me, that usually meant fishing from the dock or from a rock outcropping a short hike from the cottage.

The lake bottom by the cottage is interesting.

In one spot, the water drops gradually until you're about 50 feet from shore, then it drops down to about 75 feet. At the rock outcropping, you can jump off and be in 120 feet of water just three feet from shore.

It's interesting that the shallower water never seems to hold many fish – and what is there is usually small and scattered. But the deep water never fails to offer a larger and more diverse catch. But it really strains your line to bring the catch to the surface.

This morning, Luke shares the story of Jesus offering some fishing tips to professional fisher, Simon.

Simon makes his living working the waters with his partners – Simon Peter, James and John – in the Sea of Galilee

... which Luke calls the Lake of Gennesaret.

They are cleaning their nets after a long, fruitless night of fishing. The men are tired from pulling in their nets ... even pulling up empty ones is physically exhausting.

These nets could stretch for 100 feet. The tops were kept on the surface by gourds, while the bottom of the nets was held on the bottom by weights. The usual catch was made up of a fish called a Musht, which could be almost a foot and a half in length and weigh around three pounds.

It took two boats with full crews to pull in the net loaded with the day's catch.

The fishers ... probably discouraged and feeling a bit diminished ... can't wait to get home and some sleep.

Jesus is watching the men on the shoreline when a crowd gathers around him. They want to hear this rabbi offer the word of God, but the shoreline is not great place to share with such a large gathering.

Jesus asks Simon to take him out in one of the boats so he can teach the large crowd from the water. Simon doesn't argue, he just pushes the boat out onto the lake.

When Jesus is done teaching, he calls Simon to take a different approach. He instructs the fisher to take the boat into deeper water and drop his net.

Simon doesn't expect any different results than from the night before. He could have easily have said "no." But

then he wouldn't experience the wondrous nature of what comes next.

Experience tells him that moving the nets into deeper water doesn't hold too much promise ... the nets would be higher off the bottom of the lake and the fish could easily go under the nets ... which also would be visible in the light of day ... and just head out toward the middle of the lake.

Still, Simon displays a level of trust and follows Jesus' instructions.

Against what his experience tells him, Simon takes the boat out to deep water and drops his nets. When he pulls them back up ... the nets that had been empty are now filled with a bounty that is so large that the nets strain to hold it all.

Simon summons the others on the shore so they can help and share in the abundance from the deep.

For some, the lesson ends here.

The abundance God provides for those who trust in the Lord. Have faith and the Lord provides.

But that's not the whole point of the story.

If we stop with the nets full, then we miss what comes when they return to shore. And that is where we need to go this morning.

After they got the boats back on shore, in a moment of humility, Simon Peter tries to send Jesus away ... saying he is not worthy and confesses his sin.

But Jesus, forgives him and tells him that he will be catching people from now on. Simon Peter sheds his old way of life and becomes able to walk with Jesus.

What's more ... Jesus and the men simply walk away and leave the abundance lying on the shore ... where others could benefit from the sustenance that the catch offered.

They all left their old lives to follow Jesus on an uncertain course into deeper water. They have faith in him.

This story then is about a call to mission.

It is about emptying the nets ... ourselves ... so we are open to trust and experiencing love.

It is about how carrying the message and promise of the gospel will bring people from the depths and into the light.

In Jewish tradition ... deep water was a reminder of the sea ... a place of chaos, danger and uncertainty. It was a reminder of the life the people had experienced.

It's easy to see that the events of the past few weeks have been marked by such chaos. ... and the weeks ahead don't hold the promise of calmer waters for the church or for the world.

People are having their very existence questioned and put at-risk ... refugee aid agencies are being slandered and their efforts minimized. Equality is being dismantled ... Compassion is being discounted.

In this climate, our ministry ... our efforts to comfort, protect and to advocate ... our inclusive nature ... becomes even more vital. Our ministry is a safety net.

Discipleship means forgoing the safety of shallow waters and being

willing to travel to deep waters ... the places of profound sadness, pain, fear and suffering. Once there, we become the means of making God's love known to those we find there.

Like Simon and like the nets ... we are called to empty ourselves so that we may be filled with God's abundant love ... a love we are called to share with others.

It is a call to leave behind our old way of life ... to abandon the things that anchor us in safe, but unproductive waters.

But it doesn't mean abandoning the gifts we have to offer. Discipleship is shaped by our knowledge, skills and experiences ... the variety of tools we can use to raise others.

It cannot be shaped by our hesitancy ... our avoidance of the new and the unfamiliar.

Jesus ... in his call to mission ... tells Simon that he will remain a fisher. Only the catch will change.

Later this morning, we will gather in fellowship as disciples for our annual congregational meeting. It is an opportunity to look at the past and consider the future of our congregation and its ministry.

It is a time when we can reflect on the various waters we plied during the previous year ... marking the places where the nets were filled ... when our ministry to others met the needs of the world and brought people comfort and healing ... those times when we made a difference in others' lives.

It is also an opportunity to consider the times when the catch wasn't what we expected ... and discern the deeper waters where our talents and ministry are most desperately needed.

This congregation's outreach and ministry in the community is important ... please do not ever forget that.

The net we cast is expansive ... it is a product of our call to serve and a reflection of abundant love ... the grace ... that we have all received through the cross.

It is a net that we drop and that we pull in ... together ... through trust ... through faith ... and through 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...

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.

COMING UP

March 4 – Shrove Supper, 5-7 p.m.

March 5 – Lenten Brown Bag Bible Study resumes (noon-1 p.m.)

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.

April 17 – Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m.

**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.