



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinitylutheran.ca

June 1, 2025
7th Sunday in Easter

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.

New socks are being collected for the Downtown Mission on an on-going basis. Bring them to a Sunday service or call the office to arrange a drop-off.

Coming Up

Wednesday Café begins Wednesday, June 4. Come have coffee with the pastor and anyone else who happens by. Coffee, tea and juice will be available during these times of fellowship and conversation. The Café takes place from 10-11:30 a.m. in front of the main entrance (or in the Narthex if it's raining). The café is planned to run for the summer, but if successful it could be offered year-round. Come, have a chat and a nosh.

Also Happening

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday ... agape service

June 14 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

June 22 – Healing & Belonging Service

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

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

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Dot, Jean, Ken, Randy, Roger, Rose, Jeff

Thames Area Clergy: Congregation of St. John's, Aylmer

Introduction to the day

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history — to our day — and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

Hymns

ELW #875 Praise, praise, praise the
Lord

ELW # 855 Crown him with many
crowns

ELW # 482 I come with joy

ELW # 826 Thine the amen

Prayer of the day

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people
into your one will. Make us love what
you command and desire what you
promise, that, amid all the changes of
this world, our hearts may be fixed
where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

AMEN

First reading Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the
place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who
had a spirit of divination and brought her
owners a great deal of money by
fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed
Paul and us, she would cry out, "These
men are slaves of the Most High God,
who proclaim to you a way of
salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for
many days. But Paul, very much
annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I
order you in the name of Jesus Christ to

come out of her." And it came out that
very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their
hope of making money was gone, they
seized Paul and Silas and dragged them
into the marketplace before the
authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought
them before the magistrates, they said,
"These men are disturbing our city; they
are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs
that are not lawful for us as Romans to
adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in
attacking them, and the magistrates had
them stripped of their clothing and
ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³
After they had given them a severe
flogging, they threw them into prison and
ordered the jailer to keep them
securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions,
he put them in the innermost cell and
fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were
praying and singing hymns to God, and
the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶
Suddenly there was an earthquake, so
violent that the foundations of the prison
were shaken; and immediately all the
doors were opened and everyone's
chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the
jailer woke up and saw the prison doors
wide open, he drew his sword and was
about to kill himself, since he supposed
that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But
Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not
harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹
The jailer called for lights, and rushing
in, he fell down trembling before Paul
and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them
outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do
to be saved?" ³¹ They answered,

“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Psalm: 97

¹ The Lord reigns; let the ^l earth rejoice;

let the multitude of the ^l isles be glad.

² **Clouds and darkness sur- ^l round the Lord,
righteousness and justice are the foundations ^l of God’s throne.**

³ Fire goes be- ^l fore the Lord,
burning up enemies on ^l every side.

⁴ **Lightnings light ^l up the world;
the earth ^l sees and trembles.**

⁵ The mountains ^l melt like wax
before the Lord of ^l all the earth.

⁶ **The heavens declare your
righteous- ^l ness, O Lord,
and all the peoples ^l see your
glory.**

⁷ Confounded be all who worship
carved images and delight ^l in false
gods!

Bow down before the Lord, ^l all you
gods.

⁸ **Zion hears and is glad, and the
cities of Ju- ^l dah rejoice,
because of your judg- ^l ments,**

O Lord.

⁹ For you are the Lord, most high
over ^l all the earth;

you are exalted far a- ^l bove all
gods.

¹⁰ **You who love the ^l Lord, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the
saints and rescues them from the
hand ^l of the wicked.**

¹¹ Light dawns ^l for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- ^l est of heart.

¹² **Rejoice in the ^l Lord, you
righteous,
and give thanks to God’s ^l holy
name.**

Second reading: Revelation 22:12-14,
16-17, 20-21

¹² “See, I am coming soon; my reward is
with me, to repay according to
everyone’s work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and
the Omega, the first and the last, the
beginning and the end.”

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their
robes, so that they will have the right to
the tree of life and may enter the city by
the gates.

¹⁶ “It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to
you with this testimony for the churches.
I am the root and the descendant of
David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say,
“Come.”

And let everyone who hears say,
“Come.”

And let everyone who is thirsty come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water
of life as a gift.

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.



Gospel: John 17: 20-26

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Sermon

Being known

I had in my first board of directors meeting for Paws in Recovery early last week.

Paws in Recovery is a newly established non-profit addiction treatment program focused on supporting members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community on their path to healing and recovery.

This group aims to provide a safe, inclusive environment where every person—regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation—receives the care, respect, and dignity.

Such goals mirror our own here at Trinity ... and should mirror those of any church that claims to proclaim the promise of the gospel.

BUT...

One of the directors seemed a little uneasy having a meeting in a church fellowship hall.

She told me that she had been brought up as a Catholic and her sexual orientation made her feel like an unwanted outsider at her church. When other members of the congregations

learned she was pansexual ... well, it did not go well.

She did not feel loved or supported.

Sadly, this is just the latest in a line of stories I have heard about how congregations have wounded people because of who they are or who they love.

One story shared with me last summer detailed the public abuse by a pastor who called out a member from the pulpit because the pastor had learned the man was gay.

Such stories are how some know the church ... and it is how some perceive God in or absent from their lives.

When we should be known by the love we share ... by how we serve others ... this is how the church is known.

Jesus is nearing the end of his farewell with the disciples.

They have shared a meal ... Jesus has washed their feet ... Judas has left to get the authorities ... Jesus has called on the disciples to love one another ... and now Jesus prays.

Jesus has prayed for himself ... then for his disciples ... now he prays for the believers who are to come. He prays for unity ... for a community of believers connected through love.

Jesus prays for you and me.

And because Jesus is praying for us ... his prayer spans between the past ... the present ... and the time to come. It is a prayer that hangs between earth and heaven.

Jesus speaks of the love that has existed since before the foundation of the world ... the love that has existed between the father and the son ... a love that is now available to believers through the Son who has become human and through his act of self-giving on the cross.

These are the last words Jesus shares with the disciples.

Soon he will be arrested ... brought before Pilate ... tortured ... die on the cross ... and lie in a tomb.

Jesus leaves the disciples with the abundant love that they will embody in the world.

We see God through Jesus ... we know Jesus through his followers ... which means we know God through Jesus' followers. Our actions reveal God to the world.

St. Teresa of Avila reminds us:

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ is to look out on a hurting world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

"Yours are the hands with which he is to bless now."

"Yours are the hands with which he is to bless now."

Being one with Jesus, then, means being one with each other ... living in love ... the love we received through the cross ... the love we share ... and through the act of sharing making God's name known.

How are we known ... do we truly make God's name known through our words and our actions?

Are we vocal in our opposition to injustice and to violence?

Are we mute in our calling to love? Do we simply look inward when life calls us to look out into the world?

Does silence mark us? Do others question if God is present ... or wonder if they are alone in their suffering because there is no advocate ... no voice for peace and security?

How are we known?

How we serve ... how we love others ... is a revelatory act. It reveals God's presence in the world. It reveals where our heart lies.

When we open our doors to those in need ... when we clothe and feed ... when we provide a loving place of belonging ... or when we go from this place and work for peace or justice ... we become known and through our humble service, God's presence is felt ... in those moments, God is made known.

Professor Lucy Lind Hogan once wrote:

"To be a follower of Jesus is to be part of a greater whole. According to Jesus, there are to be no solitary Christians or spiritual 'Lone Rangers.' ... To become part of Christ is to become a part of the community; a part of the one."

Jesus prays for unity among the disciples and the believers who are to come because he recognizes that the disciples' track record during their

journey through the Galilee hasn't exactly been stellar.

They have misunderstood ... they have wanted personal glory and honour ... they have failed in ministry and have loved the wrong things. And it is through love that God is glorified.

To authentically proclaim the promise of the gospel and offer a healing balm to the world requires a community bound through love.

Love is how we are to be known ... it is the bedrock of discipleship.

In our reading from Acts, we hear of Paul and Silas' experience in the Roman colony of Philippi.

It is a story of the power of love to transform lives.

Paul and Silas are in prison for ruining the economic prospects for a local businessman. They have been beaten and tossed in jail after an annoyed Paul casts a spirit out from a slave girl.

While behind bars, the two men sing and pray ... as they face an uncertain future in the darkness of their cell. Paul and Silas worship God.

An earthquake knocks the doors off their hinges and opens their shackles. When the jailer regains consciousness, he becomes afraid that the prisoners had escaped to parts unknown.

The blame and shame will land squarely on his shoulders.

Rather than face punishment from his Roman masters, the jailer decides to kill himself when Paul calls out.

They remained in their cells ... there is no need for the jailer to end his life in

shame. The jailer falls down before the two men.

"What must I do to be saved?" he pleads.

Paul and Silas spoke a word of the Lord to the jailer and he washed their wounds ... was baptized with his entire family ... and brought the two men into his home.

The word resulted in him becoming a believer ... bringing him out from a prison of his own and in heart-felt hospitality.

The word that they shared?

Love...

Love is how Jesus approached life ... love is the lens through which life should be viewed ... love is how God is made known ... known through our words and actions.

Jesus prays that our hearts and minds may be woven into the very fabric of God. Jesus invites the Spirit ... the Advocate ... to draw us into what is good and gracious.

Jesus prays that we will love what God loves.

And why?

So that the world may come to know the great love of God through Jesus and so that the world can see and experience it through us since we are the hands and feet and heart of God alive in the world.

Our hearts are to beat as one because they beat with the same love with which God has so loved the world.

And such hearts ... such love ... is how we are to be known. So, let us be well-known.

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 Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour
and give you + peace.

AMEN

**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.