



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinitylutheran.ca

August 10, 2025
9th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Today's sermon is provided by Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the National bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).

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

Back to Church Sunday. Summer nearing the halfway point and we're thinking about the fall. Our Back-to-Church Service is scheduled for September 7. Last year, we offered a Dr. Seuss-themed service. This time? Come and see. Invite family and friends to the service and connect or re-connect them to life at Trinity.

Also Happening

September 13 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

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

Introduction to the day

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Hymns

ACS # 993 God is here today

ELW # 812 Faith of our fathers

ELW # 511 Thy strong word

ACS # 1062 Build a longer table

ELW # 815 I want to walk as a child of
the light

Prayer of the day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your church.
Open our hearts to the riches of your
grace, that we may be ready to receive
you wherever you appear, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMEN

First reading Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of
the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do
not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield;
your reward shall be very great." ² But
Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you
give me, for I continue childless, and the
heir of my house is Eliezer of
Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You
have given me no offspring, so a slave
born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But
the word of the Lord came to him, "This
man shall not be your heir; no one but
your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵
He brought him outside and said, "Look
toward heaven and count the stars, if
you are able to count them." Then he
said to him, "So shall your



descendants be." ⁶ And he believed
the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him
as righteousness.

Psalm: 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is
the Lord!

Happy the people chosen to ¹ be
God's heritage!

¹³ **The Lord looks ¹ down from
heaven,**

and sees all ¹ humankind.

¹⁴ God sits firmly en- ¹ throned and
watches

all who dwell ¹ on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions ¹ all their hearts
and observes ¹ all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size ¹ of
the army,

nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their
great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain ¹ hope for
victory;**

**despite its great strength
it cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who
fear you, O Lord,

upon those who wait for
your steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of
famine.**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you,
O Lord,
our helper and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoices in
you,**

**for in your holy name we put our
trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be
upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

Second reading:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-162

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he
was called to set out for a place that he
was to receive as an inheritance, and he
set out, not knowing where he was
going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in
the land he had been promised, as in a
foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac
and Jacob, who were heirs with him of
the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked
forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By
faith, with Sarah's involvement, he
received power of procreation, even
though he was too old, because he
considered him faithful who had
promised. ¹² Therefore from one person,
and this one as good as dead,

descendants were born, "as many as
the stars of heaven and as the
innumerable grains of sand by the
seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without
having received the promises, but from
a distance they saw and greeted them.
They confessed that they were
strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴
for people who speak in this way make it
clear that they are seeking a
homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of
the land that they had left behind, they
would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶
But as it is, they desire a better
homeland, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore God is not ashamed to be
called their God; indeed, he has
prepared a city for them.

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-40 [Jesus
said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for
it is your Father's good pleasure to give
you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your
possessions and give alms. Make
purses for yourselves that do not wear
out, an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth
destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have
your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are
waiting for their master to return from
the wedding banquet, so that they may
open the door for him as soon as he
comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those
slaves whom the master finds alert
when he comes; truly I tell you, he will

fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Sermon

Guest Preacher:

Deacon Gretchen Peterson

Hello! My name is Deacon Gretchen Peterson and I serve as the Assistant to the National Bishop for Youth and Leadership. I live, work and play in Saskatoon which is Treaty 6 territory and the Homeland of the Métis. I am grateful to those who have come before me, who have taken care of these lands and the beautiful South Saskatchewan River, which flows not far from my home. I'm also grateful to join you today, wherever you call home, to be part of your worship this day, August 10, the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and also International Youth Day.

I have this habit when I get something cool or something that is one of a kind, I tend to hold onto it. I hide it away. I store up this treasure.

For example, I have a huge pile of cool stickers. Some of them I've had for years. I don't want to stick them onto something, because then they are used

– if I have to throw that something away, then the sticker is gone too.

So instead, I store these stickers in a pile, in my office. And then I don't really get to see them or enjoy them – and neither does anyone else. This feels a bit ridiculous.

Is there something that feels valuable to you that you hold onto, like I'm holding onto these stickers? And then in the end, you don't get to enjoy it for what it is? You don't get to enjoy it for what it was created for?

Over the past year, I've really challenged myself to use the things I have, in the here and now. Not to hold onto them for that special “some day.” But to recognize that things are meant to bring me joy now. Not just in the future on some magically special day.

We all have these treasures in our lives. Sometimes the messages of scarcity and fear we hear in our society end up encouraging us to hold onto these treasures, instead of experiencing them in the here and now.

As I write this sermon, I am fresh off of being in Winnipeg for our 2025 National Convention. It was a wonderful convention – full of engaging conversation, beautiful worship, meaningful presentations, and important work like electing a new National Bishop, national church council officers and members. There were so many amazing moments. But for me, the most significant moments at a convention are always the same – the time I get to spend with the delegates who are 30 years old and under.

Altogether there were 28 delegates who were between the ages of 16 – 30 at this convention. This is a record for us! Our goal is to have at least 20% of the delegation be 30 and under – and that would be 30 individuals. What a great moment for us as a church, to have so many young people sign up – to take time off from work, or use their vacation days – to join in convention for the business of the church!

As a church, we are heading into a time of change. We are being asked to listen and to speak with one another, as we engage in a consultative process, across the whole ELCIC. We are being asked to face our current financial and structural realities and realize we can't keep operating the same way we have been. We started some of this work at convention and it will continue, across the whole ELCIC, over the next 3 years. I hope you will engage in this work when the opportunity presents itself to you and your congregation!

We are being asked to be prepared – to face some tough realities and be ready to make changes and dream up creative ventures. This will require us to be courageous.

I anticipated people approaching this with fear and trepidation, but it has been remarkable. People seem to be ready to engage in this important work – and that is so encouraging! Folks seem to be ready to find ways to collaborate and to work together, right across the whole country, as we find a way to be a current, relevant expression of the Lutheran faith today and into tomorrow.

So, it seems this text from Luke can serve as a good reminder for us, in this current reality we, the ELCIC, find ourselves in!

We need to be prepared – so let us engage in the processes that become available to us, to talk with each other and listen to each other about why we love God and why we seek ways to be the church in our communities.

We need to find our treasures – there are treasures all around us! In our congregations, in our communities, on our committees. Let us find these treasures and raise them up! Let us not store them away, waiting for the perfect day. Instead, let us lift them up and highlight them! I think some of our treasures might surprise us so let us be open to things we might not be expecting!

One of the important things we will need to do is listen to our youth and young adults. These folks are definitely treasures in our church. As those of us who were at convention witnessed many times, the youth and young adults of the ELCIC are ready for action! They are ready to be the church, right now. They are ready to provide leadership in amazing ways – and they already are - in their congregations, in their synods and in their communities. These folks aren't the future of our church – they are the present and the future.

So, we need to be prepared to listen to our youth and young adults. And we need to be prepared to act on what they tell us, about how they experience

church and how they engage in their faith.

We need to be prepared, dressed for action.

We need to raise up our treasures, for that is where our hearts are.

We need to give, so that we can take care of others.

We need to be ready to serve, for that is God's call for each of us, God's beloved children.

I truly believe that if we listen to God's word in these verses from Luke, and remind each other to be thoughtful, be compassionate, be courageous – then we will see the kingdom of God in our midst, here and now. We won't feel the need to store up our treasures, like my cool stickers, for another day or time. We will be a gift to the world, if we step up and engage in Christ's call to not only serve each other, but also those in our communities.

May we be ready to engage with each other in meaningful and thoughtful ways. May we be ready to be creative. May we be ready to look for God in the unusual places. May we be ready to lift up the voices of the youth and young adults in our churches and in our communities. May we be ready to be God's feet and hands in our world, here and now.

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 all,
who raised + Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

AMEN

More Announcements

In response to requests from members, Trinity accepts offerings via eTransfer. You must set up the eTransfer information in your bank account. The email address to be used is trinitywlutheran@gmail.com. In the "comment" section, please indicate: "Trinity - General Offering" And remember to put your name and address so we can provide a tax receipt.