



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

October 5, 2025

17th 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.

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

November 2 – All Saints Service in which we remember the saints in our lives who have gone on to the kingdom. You are invited to bring a candle to light and place before the altar. Don't have a candle? Don't worry. We'll have some available.

Also Happening

October 11 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m. Donations and volunteers welcome!

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

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW # 526 God is here

ELW # 635 We walk by faith

ELW #583 – Take my life, that I may be

ELW # 535 Hallelujah! We sing your
praises

Prayer of the day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen

First reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see
wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before
me;

strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.



The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth
perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will
say to me
and what he will answer concerning
my complaint.

² Then the Lord answered me and
said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the
appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not
lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their
faithfulness.

Psalm: 37:1-9

¹ Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers;
do not be jealous of those ¹ who do
wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither ¹ like
the grass,
and like the green grass ¹ fade
away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord ¹ and do
good;
dwell in the land and ¹ find safe
pasture.

⁴ **Take delight ¹ in the Lord,
who shall give you your ¹ heart's
desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put
your trust ¹ in the Lord,
and see what ¹ God will do.

⁶ **The Lord will make your
vindication as clear ¹ as the light
and the justice of your case like
the ¹ noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and
wait ¹ patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who
prosper, the one who succeeds in ¹ evil
schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave ¹ rage
alone;
do not be provoked; it leads
on- ¹ ly to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall ¹ be cut off,
but those who hope in
the Lord shall pos- ¹ sess the land.

Second reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the
will of God, for the sake of the promise
of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God
the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I
worship with a clear conscience, as my
ancestors did—when I remember you
constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴
Recalling your tears, I long to see you
so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am
reminded of your sincere faith, a faith
that lived first in your grandmother Lois
and your mother Eunice and now, I am
sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I
remind you to rekindle the gift of God
that is within you through the laying on
of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a
spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of
power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the
testimony about our Lord or of me his
prisoner, but join with me in suffering for
the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who
saved us and called us with a holy
calling, not according to our works but
according to his own purpose and grace,
and this grace was given to us in Christ
Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it
has now been revealed through the
appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who abolished death and brought life
and immortality to light through the
gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was
appointed a herald and an apostle and a

teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.



Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the

table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

Sermon

“Quality Faith”

God’s grace and peace be with you this day and always

My parents bought a lakefront cottage west of Sudbury when they returned to Canada after living in the States for 25 years.

The cottage and the property needed some work to make it a four-season home.

Their first spring ... before the black flies and the mosquitoes showed up ... saw my father clearing away brush to improve the view to the lake and to move it back from the septic field.

As he piled up the brush near the chipper he rented, my father created a separate pile of branches near the shoreline.

After the chipping was done and the equipment was returned, my father separated the large pile on the shoreline into a few smaller bundles of branches.

He then tied a good-sized rock into each bundle.

My father loaded a couple of bundles into the back of his rowboat ... took them out and sunk them about 25 metres out from their dock.

The lake was created about a century ago by dropping logs across a stream and piling rocks against them to hold the logs in place and to restrict the water flow. At its deepest spot, the water was only about 20-feet deep. The bottom was covered with a foot-and-a-half of mud and clay . Only a few rocks pushed up through the muck.

There were no structures to hold fish on the bottom. The bundles changed that situation.

The branches would provide protection for smaller fish and attract larger fish to the area.

My father did all this to improve his chances of catching something from the cottage's dock, but he also provided the means for life to flourish in the lake.

I thought about that weekend's worth of work when I read Jesus tell the apostles about the mulberry tree being planted in the sea.

This morning, Jesus is with a crowd of people that includes the disciples ... curious onlookers and the Pharisees and scribes.

Jesus has just taught the crowd about accountability to others and being merciful when others have sinned. He warned the crowd that they will always be presented with opportunities to sin and they have a responsibility to ensure that their actions do not cause others to stumble.

Jesus tells them that if a sinner is contrite and repents ... to forgive them ... to continually forgive them.

Now, Luke shares that one of the twelve tells Jesus that they are short supply of what they consider necessary to keep themselves and others from stumbling.

The apostle says to Jesus "increase our faith." ... they seem certain that whatever faith they have is inadequate for the tasks they will undertake.

Jesus seems a bit annoyed with the apostles ... the twelve who expected to carry on his work after the cross. They just don't seem to comprehend what is being taught.

He responds by saying "If you had faith ..." If they had even the smallest amount of faith ... a faith the size of a mustard seed, they could accomplish great feats.

The mustard seed is among the smallest of seeds, but once it takes hold in the soil, its roots run deep and the tree that grows from the seed and that is nourished by the roots, is large and life-giving.

The tree provides shelter and food for birds and animals. The small seed transforms into something wondrous.

Jesus tells the apostles that even a small amount of faith can accomplish great things. It can uproot a mulberry tree ... with its expansive and deep root system ... and plant it in the sea.

There ... like a reef and like those bundles of branches ... the tree would

offer shelter and life to the creatures under the waves.

Faith ... says Jesus ... is about quality, not quantity.

If we are to live by faith, then quality is what matters.

But, for some faith communities in our time, it is about quantity.

Faith becomes something that can be measured and monetized ... faith ... for those folks ... becomes a personal wealth-generator and an instrument that can shame.

There are some congregations that have members hold up their envelopes when making an offering so that people can see others' generosity and adjust their own offerings accordingly.

Those following the Prosperity Gospel believe that wealth and possessions are public signs of God's favour and of a person's strong faith. The lack of wealth or material possessions is a visible sign that a person's faith is also lacking.

Greed and competition are rewarded as the highest values in the church.

Those who embrace the Prosperity Gospel see faith as a means to benefit self rather than an instrument to make a difference in the lives of others.

They look inward rather than recognize that through our faith ... through our service to others ... God's presence is made known. There is the true quality of faith.

Faith is essential for discipleship ... faith in action is how it produces its fruits.

In discussing this morning's passage, Francisco Garcia wrote:

"Faith is most powerfully expressed and tangibly felt when it is keyed into an action that draws awareness of the kingdom that is among/within us, imminent and breaking through in the world."

Faith is expressed through acts that mirror the qualities of the Kingdom.

Putting faith in action ... that is our call as we follow Jesus.

Faith wants and needs to be used. It's not something that sits idle.

Faith is strengthened and nurtured through action. ... that is the when grace is shared.

And for Lutherans, faith is the means of grace.

Martin Luther struggled with the idea that he did not live a life that was pleasing to God ... that he was continually falling short of God's expectations and was unworthy of God's love. That is until he considered Paul's words to the congregation in Rome. ... "we are justified by faith."

Faith brings us into a grace-filled life.

Faith ... for each of us ... is a seed that is nurtured through our lived experience.

At times, our lived experience challenges our faith ... questions our faith ... shapes our faith ... even grows

our faith. But the essence of faith ... the seed ... never changes.

Jesus' words this morning call us to consider what our faith can accomplish.

Does our faith call us to action ... to advocate for the marginalized ... for those the world says does not belong? Does it call us to welcome, feed and shelter the stranger?

Are we bold in our faith?

What do we do with our faith?

It is easy to say our faith isn't enough ... that we need more ... that the mustard-seed-sized faith we carry is insufficient for what we know needs to be done to better love others. That we need more faith to confront the unjust systems of the world or even to forgive those who have hurt us.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can do what is seemingly impossible and difficult.

So, maybe it isn't the size of our faith that should be a concern, rather maybe we should consider if our faith is determined enough ... tenacious enough ... durable enough ... to tackle the challenges that lie ahead... to flip expectations on their ear ... and by doing so, our faith continues to grow into something greater than ourselves as we live into our call as disciples.

Faith ... it can move massive mulberry trees ... it can be expressed by our presence ... by a smile ... by a welcome ... by a word.

Faith transforms life as God's unconditional love flows from our hearts to the world.

As a people and a church that is always to be re-forming, let us hold to our confession of justification by grace through faith.

Let us be attuned to the faith that transforms all it touches ... knowing that the Spirit works in and through us to pursue righteous acts.

Let us be mindful that we will stumble, but in those times, God's mercy and forgiveness remains present.

May God increase this faith in us.

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

Almighty God,
Father, + Son,
and Holy Spirit,
bless ye now and forever.

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.