



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

October 12, 2025
18th 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 when 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

November 8 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m. **Donations desperately needed!**

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

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW # 845 Voices raised to you

ELW # 453 Baptized and set free

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

ELW # 840 Now that we all our God

Prayer of the day

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen

First reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I

God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a, b, c} Then he returned to the man

of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

Psalm: 111

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

² Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them. R

³ Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴ You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.

⁵ You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶ You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations. R

⁷ The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸ They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.

⁹ You sent redemption to your people

and commanded your cove- | nant forever;

holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;

all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- | dures forever.

Second reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be

ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?” ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Sermon

“Living Parable”

There is a common request pastors make of other pastors when they first meet: “tell me about your faith journey.”

These journeys each of us are on are rarely straight lines ... they meander ... they take tangents ... there are

events that can either halt the journey or kick it into overdrive.

My own faith journey follows no discernable map and it went in fits and starts before it brought me here.

I’d like to share one of the events that pushed the expression of my faith forward.

I graduated from a Lutheran college in the States.

The college prepared some of the male students for the seminary. One of my friends from that time went into teaching and has since become a pastor in the *other* synod.

Over the years, we’d check in with each other to see how our respective lives were going. About 15 years ago, my emails began going unanswered.

After a few months, I got it in my head to call to him.

His wife answered. My friend had been hospitalized for months.

He was a high school basketball coach and ... because of the daily practices ... he continually wore out his shoes. One recent pair had given him blisters on one of his feet and they had become infected.

The infection became flesh-eating disease and he had already lost his foot and was about to lose his lower leg to just below the knee. Eventually, he would lose more of the leg.

“Call him,” she instructed and gave me the hospital’s number.

We spoke for close to an hour. Rather than the usual stuff, we talked about faith. I was struck by how strong his faith remained through his ordeal.

Before we hung up, he said, “You know, I’ve been listening to you for an hour and I think you’re being called. You need to decide if you’re going to answer it.”

The phone call ended and his faith moved my journey forward.

Faith ... faith ... it carries us into places we may never have imagined.

Luke’s gospel has been focused on faith during the past couple of weeks.

Last week, we heard the Apostles tell Jesus to increase their faith because they don’t think they had enough to meet the needs of the world.

Jesus tells them that even a small amount of faith ... faith as small as a mustard seed ... can do great things. It can move a mulberry tree and plant it in the sea.

Now, Luke shares a story where Jesus shows the power of faith and of the wide range of people who possess it.

Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem and the cross when he travels across the territory between Galilee and Samaria. It’s a place that people from both lands try to avoid.

It is an in-between place.

He enters a village and is approached by ten men suffering from skin diseases.

“Have mercy on us!” they call out.

Their affliction had pushed the ten men to the edges of the community.

Skin diseases were considered visible signs of sin and those who displayed the signs of disease were

considered unclean. They and their families were people to be avoided.

The stigma of their disease meant that they could not fully participate in the life of the community.

No one else recognizes Jesus ... he falls under the radar of the people with wealth and status. The people living with the social stigma of their disease are the only ones who come to him.

Jesus brings them to health and wholeness, but the act does not rest solely with him.

Jesus makes the ten men active participants in their own healing when he sends them to the priests to show themselves.

Along the way, the group recognizes that they have been healed ... “made clean” is how Luke puts it.

One member ... a Samaritan ... heads back to Jesus.

He recognizes the wonder of what was accomplished and goes back to the one who saved him.

The man crosses the barrier that tradition and religion had established and comes to Jesus ... offering praise and thanksgiving.

Jesus notes that only the foreigner came back to glorify God before he sends him on his way ... the Samaritan becomes a visible sign of God’s actions in the world and of the power of faith to transform life.

Jesus wonders why the rest of the group didn’t return.

It’s easy to believe that the other nine did not appreciate what had happened to them ... that because they

didn't return to Jesus that they were ungrateful.

But they just continued on to the priests. Or they might have rushed home to show their families and friends what had happened.

Perhaps, they wanted to celebrate their liberation from disease and shame ... to celebrate the new life they all had received. That seems like a natural response.

Faith had indeed brought them to new life.

In Jesus ... the ten have been seen and heard and sent to share the news. Their worth is affirmed ... they know they matter to God. By the act of mercy, Jesus transforms the in-between space into a sacred place.

It is a transformation that we too share in ... that faith makes possible.

In an essay on this passage from Luke, Professor Nancy Westfield wrote:

“Who matters to Jesus should matter to us. What matters to Jesus should matter to us.”

In the current climate of uncertainty, fear and violence ... Westfield's comment needs not only to be considered ... perhaps it needs to be amended.

“Who matters to Jesus **MUST** matter to us. What matters to Jesus **MUST** matter to us.”

Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus “acts with mercy toward outsiders ... lauds their faith, eats at a variety of tables ... crosses a variety of

boundaries. He is the living parable of God.”¹

Caring for others ... advocating for them ... being present for them and bringing grace into their lives isn't optional ... it is an imperative act.

It is an expression of faith that marks our own journeys and moves things forward as God's love is faithfully active in the world through us.

Luke's gospel invites us to consider how we speak and act with those we find outside these four walls or beyond our own walls ... the personal boundaries ... that we have created.

Jesus calls followers to honour those who are called “outsiders” ... “others” ... or “*those people*” as some now like to label unfamiliar folks.

How willing are we to honour others through love?

Are there people whom we are unwilling to allow into the life of community? Do we place limits on who we will serve or on whose call for mercy we answer?

Such boundaries not only keep others from knowing God's unconditional love, but they also keep the boundary creators from complete health and wholeness.

And here's the thing ... faith is not limited by geography ... it has no territorial limits. It isn't limited by the world's standards. It reaches into the in-between places.

1 Connections, pg. 388

Whatever boundaries we seek to create ... whether personal, cultural, social or even spiritual ... helps create the in-between places ... the places we avoid.

But God's love ... God's grace ... through faith crosses these artificial lines.

Jesus crossed a boundary toward the ten men with skin diseases ... The Samaritan crossed a boundary toward Jesus.

The ten men demonstrated their faith in Jesus by coming to him and crying out for mercy. Jesus showed them the effects of God's love and sent them to cross other boundaries by sending them to the priests and into the community.

Do we demonstrate our faith, as well? Do we give thanks for the mercy we receive and offer it to others? Or do we hold that love to ourselves?

Healing takes place through acts of connection ... through relationships with one another ... those things that mark a community.

Faith is given full expression in our acts of compassionate justice.

Acts that are possible in those times when we hear cries for mercy ... for help ... for longing ... and we ignore the boundaries to bring the promise of new life into those in-between places.

And then we become part of another's faith journey ... a journey that is rarely made alone ... and one that has grace in each footstep.

A journey where we become a living parable of God's 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

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

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.

**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.

