

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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**Pentecost 10**

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When God created His prized creation of Adam & Eve, the LORD stated before creating Eve, “*It’s not good for the man to be alone*” (**Genesis 2:18**). In other words, God’s perfect world wasn’t complete without a life, soul partner for Adam. Our loving LORD designed that these two join in marriage and reflect/share a unique fellowship with each other based on Jesus’ fellowship with us (**Ephesians 5:31ff**).

How, then, would we describe the fellowship we share with God and each other as Christians? St. Paul tells us as he opens his letter to the Corinthians: “*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought*” (**1 Corinthians 1:10**). How is “perfect” unity possible? Certainly, it requires the fundamental truth that only through faith in Jesus Christ is a person saved (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). God’s underserved love moved Him to send His Son to be our Savior. As we rest our faith in Jesus, our only way to heaven, we have fellowship with God and each other.

But it’s also important to be faithful to ALL of God’s word. Otherwise, there is the danger of losing the gospel. The gospel alone proclaims that Jesus has done all to save us exceeding our human expectations, and through God’s word and sacrament He continues to keep us and feed us in this true faith.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60 with communion.

Hymns: 12, 371, 385, 327, 262

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Exodus 24:3-11.* There is no fellowship with God apart from the shedding of blood. Even when the children of Israel have promised to do all that God commands, they need to be sprinkled with blood to make them holy and acceptable to God. For sinful they are; sinful they will remain. But once God has cleansed them with blood, He hosts a meal of fellowship as a reflection of their blessed union with Him. In the New Testament, that fellowship is even more intimately marked by the meal at which Christ is the host and the blood by which He gives us holiness is the food. In thanksgiving for that meal and all it gives, we too pledge to do His will, while still trusting in His pardon.

*Psalm of the Day: Psalm 84.* It is in God’s house that we enjoy that altar from which we are fed by the LORD Himself. The refreshment that comes from our fellowship with Him in the gospel enables us to return to our daily lives trusting in His goodness and continuing grace (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16.* A primary goal of our fellowship with God is the strengthening of our fellowship with one another. For the grace that Jesus had shown to Paul is the same grace that He has shown to us. The fellowship is

strengthened through an imitation of Christ’s patience with each of us. Not my way or your way but His way is the goal—and that way we know only from the word of truth. That word creates our love for one another. That word gives us abilities and the desire to use those abilities in service to one another.

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68, EHV)

*Gospel: John 6:1-15.* Notice the humility in which Jesus displays both His compassion and almighty power. As soon as it is clear that they will use the renewed strength from the food just eaten to interfere with His saving work on the altar of the cross, Jesus leaves them. He richly feeds us with His word and sacraments and then gives us also daily bread.

*Sermon: John 6:1-15*

*Theme - “Jesus Exceeds All Expectations”*

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Moses served as a mediator between the LORD and the people. What’s the meaning behind sprinkling half the blood of the sacrificial animal upon the altar and the other half upon the people? (See **1 John 1:7**)
- Epistle: What’s a primary goal of fellowship with God?
- Gospel: Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5,000+ people get some people to confess that He is “*the Prophet who is to come into the world.*” What’s the significance of this confession (See Deuteronomy 18:15)?
- Gospel: What are the means Jesus uses today to feed us spiritually?

## Announcements:

+ A gracious thank you to Pastor Smuda for leading worship this day. May the Lord Jesus bless His proclaiming of the word!

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. We currently are studying the Book of Psalms.

**Holy Communion** - We celebrate the Lord’s Supper because Jesus instructed us to do so, and God offers us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through it (Matthew 26:28). We believe the Bible’s teaching that receiving the Sacrament together is a way of expressing unity in our beliefs as one body (1 Corinthians 10:17). We therefore respectfully ask that guests who are not members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, refrain from communing here until becoming familiar with our beliefs and express agreement. We in no way imply that you are not a Christian or are not “good enough” for us. God’s Word teaches us to regard communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. In communion we publicly confess that we agree in all that we teach and confess on the basis of the Bible (Matthew 28:20, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 10:17). We pray that you understand and will respect this practice of Close Communion. We encourage you to seek more information about the confession that unites us and would love to meet with you if you have questions regarding Close Communion.

**Exodus 24:3-11** – Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.” Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

He got up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young Israelite men, who offered whole burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings of cattle to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and he splashed half of the blood on the altar. He took the Book of the Covenant and read it out loud to the people and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do. We will obey.” Moses took the blood and splashed it on the people. He said, “Look, here is the blood of the covenant, which the LORD made with you by means of all these words.” Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. The LORD did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank. (EHV™)

**Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16** – As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ. He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ’s activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love. (EHV™)

**John 6:1-15** – After this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). A large crowd followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he was performing on those who were sick. Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, “Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?” But Jesus was saying this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to have just a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that for so many people?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. There were about five thousand men. Then Jesus took the loaves and, after giving thanks, he distributed pieces to those who were seated. He also did the same with the fish—as much as they wanted. When the people were full, he told his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the miraculous sign Jesus did, they said, “This really is the Prophet who is coming into the world.” When Jesus realized that they intended to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (EHV™)