

## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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**Pentecost 20**

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We hear experts label families with relationship troubles as “dysfunctional” families. Jesus, too, spoke of tattered and torn families and their respective relationships, when He stated (as He sent out His disciples to preach the word of God and told them what they and their hearers will expect): “*Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be the members of his own household*” (Matthew 10:21 & 35). There seems to be negativity to following Jesus and it seems that the Savior is the instigator of such division and dysfunction.

But we know from the Bible that the real cause of family strife is sin. God created the perfect family in Adam and Eve. They rebelled against God and by their disobedience plunged the entire human race into sin and its dysfunctional consequences. We witness a tangible result of this sinful dysfunction when Cain murdered his brother Abel.

Because of His underserved love, however, God sent His Son to undo the eternal consequences of humanity's sinful dysfunction. Jesus “*became our brother,*” that is, Jesus became true man so He could live, die and rise to pay for our sins.

Although we as sinners still struggle with sin and its dysfunction, in Christ we are a new family. As we cling to God's word, we become more like Him and functionally faithful as His family.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service “*Rite Two*”

Hymns: 190 (1-4), 420, 367, 190 (5)

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Genesis 2:18-24.* We note the love of God in the creation of Eve. God first shows Adam his lack and his need, his “loneliness” without a “suitable partner” that's like him in body and soul. Then, to Adam's great joy, God gifts him with Eve. Next, in love God prescribes the roles of each in the marriage to prevent chaos and dysfunction. That same love of God is evident when He provides us with a pious spouse; likewise in love He provides us with His blessings of good order and peace as we follow His will and word in humble obedience to Him and loving service to one another.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 139b.* What dignity our life has when we know the truth confessed and celebrated in this psalm! No matter my circumstance, it

is by God's grace and gift that I was born, not the mere biological function of two people. Each day God's acts of grace toward me are richer and more abundant than I could ever measure (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: Hebrews 2:9-11.* God loves us so much that He yearns to have us as members of a heavenly and eternal family. He proved so by sending His Son to save us. Jesus obeyed His Father to make us His own brothers.

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12, EHV)

*Gospel: Mark 10:2-16.* Divorce is a sin that separates not only the members of the marriage from one another but the guilty from God as well. We note the close connection between the two halves of this section from Mark: as children are God's gifts to a marriage, so they remain gifts to bring to Jesus who gave them and loves them. Perhaps the chief scandal in divorce when it involves children is the diminished ability of one or both parents to bring their children to Jesus for His blessing. What joy and satisfaction for parents who receive and then each day bring back to their Savior these special fruits of God's love.

*Sermon: Mark 10:2-16*

*Theme - “Follow God's Mission Plan For The Christian Family”*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How did God prepare Adam for His gift of marriage?
- Old Testament: In verse 24, what three things constitute a marriage in God's family plan?
- Epistle: How did God use His Son to make us “sons” of God?
- Epistle: What's the point in calling both men and women “sons” of God?
- Gospel: What does Jesus say about marriage, divorce and children in this section of Scripture?

### Announcements:

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

+ Confirmation class: every Monday from 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church.

+ Sunday school on Sunday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m.

+ Thank you to the Johnson Family for hosting our church's fall gathering. We had an enjoyable time as a church family with good food and fellowship.

**Genesis 2:18-24** – The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.” Out of the soil the LORD God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and

he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the LORD God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been. The LORD God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man. The man said, Now this one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be called “woman,” because she was taken out of man. For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh. (EHV™)

**Hebrews 2:9-11** – But we look to Jesus (the one who was made lower than the angels for a little while, so that by God’s grace he might taste death for everyone), now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death. Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. (EHV™)

**Mark 10:2-16** – Some Pharisees came to test him and asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He replied, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.” But Jesus told them, “He wrote this command for you because of your hard hearts. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” In the house his disciples asked him about this again. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. If she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, “Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (EHV™)