

# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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## Epiphany 3

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Jesus' purpose for coming into this world as the "*Light of life*" (John 8:12) was to save people from their sins. Through the Holy Spirit's work, St. Peter piles on four descriptive truths about WHO we are because of WHAT God has done for us in Jesus...as well as our Christian purpose when he writes, "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (1 Peter 2:9, EHV™). To God alone be the all the glory for making us His people and binding us all together in glorifying and sharing Him with all!

Belonging to Jesus means, then, we will not allow our light of faith grow dim. Rather, we will adhere to the ways and words of this only saving light (Old Testament), not allow sinful squabbles to ruin our unity in Jesus (Epistle), and we will "fish" for Him by witnessing His saving light to all (Gospel).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** "*Rite Two*."

**Hymns:** 191, 486, 420, 594

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-4.* Isaiah speaks of the LORD's gracious promises to those following His ways...they live in the "light"—the light of His truth and salvation.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 27.* The psalmist cries out to the LORD with confidence that He will hear the prayer of His righteous, and obviously the LORD answers those prayers for our good (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.* Paul urges the Corinthians to enjoy their highest blessings of the gospel, their unity in Christ, instead of getting caught up on petty arguments and rivalries.

*Verse of the Day: Alleluia.* Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease. Alleluia. (Matthew 4:23, EHV)

*Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23.* John the Baptizer stated that he must decrease while Jesus must increase. We see evidence of that truth as Matthew records for us Jesus' calling of His first disciples to follow Him and proclaim Him as the saving Light of the world.

*Sermon: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17*

*Theme - "ONE For All...And All For ONE"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How does Matthew 4:12-16 illumine what Isaiah prophesies in this section?
- Old Testament: What are the similarities between this section of Isaiah and Psalm 1?
- Epistle: For what does Paul chastise the Corinthians?
- Epistle: What is the basis for the Holy Spirit's direction through Paul when he tells them/us to "be perfectly united in mind and thought"?
- Epistle: What is to be the focus for preserving unity of mind and mission in Jesus' church according to verse 17?
- Gospel: How does this section offer proof that the ministry of John the Baptizer decreased while the ministry of Jesus increased?
- Gospel: We can't see the motivation in their hearts, (Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John), but what prompts "fishers of men" to accept Jesus' call? (See Matthew 16:13-16; John 6:60-68)
- Gospel: Notice the terms "at once" and "immediately." When Jesus calls us to serve Him, what terms would He use to describe how we respond?

### Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation Class: Monday from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

**Isaiah 9:1-4** - Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. (EHV™)

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17** - Brothers, I am making an appeal to you using the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask that you all express the same view and not have any divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For the news I heard about you, my

brothers, from members of Chloe's household, is that there are rivalries among you. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides them, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel—not with the wisdom used in speeches, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. (EHV™)

**Matthew 4:12-23** - When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned. From that time, Jesus began to preach: "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near." As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. (EHV™)