



**Church At Home**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario**  
**Pentecost 14** **September 14, 2025**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So, he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

**Homily**

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen.

It is difficult to imagine we are leaving the summer behind. The days are noticeably shorter and nights are certainly cooler. I hear folks ask the question, "Have you turned the furnace on yet?"

I have always considered autumn to be the spring in the life of the church because we come to life after the summer break. Programs start up again: Sunday School, shuffleboard, quilters, planning for the fall, Christmas and winter, looking ahead to planning a budget and a missional rationale to support it (Finance Committee are looking for you budgets for next year) and for those of us who are in leadership roles of the parish, life becomes full again with multiple meetings per week. It is easy to get caught up in all these important and even vital activities of parish life and forget the reason for all the work: to share the news that God loves us more than we can ever imagine.

In a way to draw us back into our faith, we find before us today these unbelievably brief and beautiful shortest of short stories. Of course, they are not simply short stories; ones you would read before closing your eyes at bedtime, but parables. As you might remember, parables are not morals, as in the “the moral of this story is...” but rather provocative, not simply describing something but doing something, pushing us into a new reality.

Today, Jesus shares with the Pharisees and the scribes, who were grumbling about who Jesus was hanging out with, two parables. They reveal the active search of a shepherd who loses a sheep and a woman who loses a coin.

Understandably then, we often focus on issues of being lost and the frustration of it all.

After all, who hasn't felt the emotion of frustration in this process of losing and finding. It is a daily occurrence for me; be it car keys, glasses, or my wallet. Now yes, I have a place for them if I remember to put them there when I come home. And when they are not in their place, a call goes out to Charlotte..... “Charlotte, have you seen.....?” I am glad Charlotte keeps track of these things for me. I would be lost without her.

Or who hasn't felt the emotion of frustration and fear when not feeling the hand of your child in the mall. Just thinking of losing your child or loved one in a crowd can and does raise the blood pressure.

What we often miss is the joy of the story. We miss the common denominator of both these stories is not loss but joy. It is even repeated twice for us: both the shepherd and the woman call to their friends and neighbours: “Rejoice with me” “Just so, there will be more joy in heaven.” And if you stop and think about it for a moment, we too have joy in our stories when the lost is found and when we are lost, I believe with unconditional love, God rejoices when we return into the fold.

However, what struck me this time when reading the lesson was not simply the unlikeliness of God acting this way – and the forceful reminder that God regularly does the unlikely in the name of love – but also the sheer, even ridiculous extravagance of these actions.

A shepherd who knows very well that a 1% loss of investment is, in the larger scheme, no big deal, but who goes on a wild goose chase – or, I guess, wild sheep chase – in the hope of bringing that one percent back.

Or what about that woman who stays up all night sweeping, hoping to find a coin that, really, isn't all that significant in the grand scheme of things. And here is what is interesting and maybe you have thought the same, I'd always assumed that she only had ten coins, which might offer a more plausible motivation of her effort at recouping 10% of her property (though still not explain the expense for the party). But what if she isn't poor but simply happens to have ten coins at home at the moment? I mean, if she's a homeowner she's not penniless and that would explain the casualness with which she invites and entertains her neighbors. It's no big deal; she can afford it. But then why the long search? Because that's just what she's like. She

doesn't want to lose any of her coins. Or, better, what if that's what God is like – needing nothing, but whose being is love, love that will not let anyone go and so searches and sweeps until finding even the most insignificant and, upon finding them (us!), parties like there's no tomorrow?

These parables challenge our image of God. If we imagine God as a ruler, then these losses are unimportant. But if we see God instead as a parent, then the extravagance – the sheer and ridiculous as it may seem is understandable. I can't think of anything I wouldn't do for my children and those I love.

My Friends in Christ. There is so much in life that conspires to make us feel like we don't matter or at least not very much and at times we don't hold any particular value or significance. Yet, Jesus went to the cross and through his death and new life to show that God believes we matter – each and everyone of us! – that we each have value, are significant, and are worthy of attention, dignity, and love.

You are special because God loves you!

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

#### **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.

#### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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## *STTLC Communiqué*

### **In Our Prayers Today.....**

Sheila Zadow-Purdy, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

### **Ministerial Acts**

#### **Funeral**

Anna Dehnicke, September 7, 2025. Age 92.

#### **Committal Service**

Gloria Peters, September 7, 2025. Age 95.

**Rally Sunday** – Please mark next Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. Blessing of backpacks and activities for the children will take place during the service. Hot dogs and treats will follow the service. Stay and enjoy the fun and the food with your St. Timothy's family.