



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 2 **June 7, 2026**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily - Rev. Adam Snook Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod

Grace to you and peace in the name of the God who loves us one and all!

It's a profound experience for me to wish you and your congregations a blessed, celebratory, advocacy-filled and meaningful Pride Month!

In 2011 our church took long-overdue action to change policies and practices which prevented an entire segment of God's children from living, serving, and feeling at home in God's church. And while we have certainly come a long way since then (truly, there is much to celebrate) – we still have a lot of work left to do!

Which is why I've chosen to take this opportunity as a participant in the 2026 ELCIC Summer Sermon Series to veer **away** from the prescribed Lectionary Reading. Not something I do very often. Instead, I would like to share with you a sermon which could be used today... during pride month...when you gather for a pride or affirming worship service...or on any other such occasion.

And so...I have a question for you:

If I were to invite you to tell me a story – a story that represents your ministry in this context – what kind of story would you share with me?

It's a proverbial question – but I still want you to think about it.

One of my favourite things about travelling – whether it be around the corner or across the globe – is that traveling affords the traveller with an opportunity to listen to some really fantastic stories.

For example:

In Barcelona, Spain, I drank wine with a guy who had been roaming the globe for four months in search of a new direction in his life after losing his job due to corporate downsizing. His was a story of adventure.

In Milan, Italy, I listened to a couple share with me the story of their heritage that reached way back to the building of the great Duomo Cathedral. Theirs was a story of history.

In Krakow, Poland, Bishop Susan and I met with a group of young 2SLGBTQIA+ college students who shared tearfully with us their struggle to gather safely and without fear of violence or discrimination. They told a story of tragedy

And in New York City, I heard the most wonderful tale of trying to make it in the Big Apple, from a person who worked five jobs and slept joyfully on a friend's couch. Theirs was a thriller of a story.

The old adage is certainly true...we all have a story to tell.

Which leads me then to wonder – what story do we tell as the church? As people of faith? As congregations and communities of believers in today's world?

If some weary traveller were to stumble into our buildings this morning...would they find themselves in the Adventure section...or the Historic section? Would it be a tale of Tragedy or a thrilling Epic which would regale them?

To put it another way – what kind of story is God calling us to share with the world? How is God calling us to be the church? What does the Good News sound like here...now...today... amidst our ears?

Dear beloved children of God – as people of faith, as the body of Christ, and as workers in God's vineyard – I believe that we are being called to tell a *love* story. Certainly, parts may be adventurous, or historic in nature. Even tragic or thrilling at times. But a love story nonetheless.

For at its core, ours is a story about God's love – as it's poured out for all God's people!

A story about a people called to love their neighbour, (unequivocally and without reservation) as themselves

And a story...a calling...that turns fear to courage, sorrow to joy, death to life, and hate to love.

Such a calling ought to freely embolden us to respond to the needs of the world in such a way as to tell the story of God's life-giving grace not only through our words...but also by our actions. Not simply with our lips...but also with our hands, and feet, and hearts, and lives.

Love is our story!

But dear church – we need to keep telling it. Keep showing it. Keep living it. More deeply and more authentically with each passing day! We simply cannot lose sight of that!

For in doing so...we will proclaim that all truly are welcome...that there really is a place at the table for all God's children...that there will surely be enough bread to go around...and that the wine will never run out.

We need to love in such a way as to make space for those who have time and time again had their voices silenced, space to welcome home those who have previously been turned away, space to ask difficult questions and engage in important learning, and space to proclaim a gospel that invites God's people into a more authentic way of living and serving.

Love has always been the church's story – messy, imperfect, beautiful, challenging, adventurous and surprising as love can so often be! But, oh what a story it is!

When I began this morning – I shared with you some stories from people I've encountered along life's path – but there is one final story which I'd like to share with you this morning.

And that's the story of a young child, who from a very early age felt that he needed to hide who he knew himself truly to be.

It's the story of a child who was told by booming voices proclaiming out-of-context scripture from imposing pulpits - that God could never love someone like him.

It's the story of a teenager who sat through church-wide debates about who was good enough (and who wasn't) to serve in God's church.

But it's also the story of a young adult who heard from different pulpits that God's love had intentionally knit him together in the womb...and that he really had been wonderfully made.

It's also the story of a young man who learned what it really means when we proclaim that *all are welcome*...because there were people along the way ready to show him the depth of such a promise.

It's also the story of a 37-year-old pastor, who in this church finally found a place of welcome, acceptance, and love outpoured – and was freed to say the words...I am gay – and God really does love me for who God created me to be.

This story isn't from one of my travels. Rather, this story...is my story. And its holy ground to share a small piece of it with you.

Friends, thank you for your partnership in the work of sharing God's love story with the world. Your labours have not been in vain, and the ministry to which you have been called and equipped matters more than you realize.

As someone who, for many years, wondered whether I could be welcomed or loved in God's church for who I truly am...I am forever grateful for those places, people and communities where the love of God is so profoundly embodied that I can't help but to feel God's arms wrap around me, holding me, and claiming me as God's own!

May each and every one of our churches be one of those places.

May each and every one of us be one of those people.

And may we forever continue to tell the story of God's love, acceptance, inclusion and welcome – shout it...sing it...dance it – for in doing so you will continue to touch hearts...changes lives...and invite others to love themselves just as God already does!

Thanks be to God. **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.

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....Trevor Thurlow, Marie Lenser, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Ministerial Acts – Funeral

Delores Wiesenbergs – June 1, 2026. Age 91.