



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 4 **June 21, 2026**
Affirmation of Baptism

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

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

Fear.....yes our dear friend fear.

Fear rears its ugly head too many times in our lives.

We remember all too well the night before an exam. The fear of not reviewing the right chapters and notes. Will the questions be on what I studied? Fear turns into nervousness.

We remember the piano recitals and playing to a hall filled with people who have critical ears or just waiting to see how many mistakes we could make – so we thought. The fear of making a mistake. Fear turns into nervousness.

We remember being asked by a business consultant what you fear the most of your job in the presence of the company president and upper management. Fears turns into nervousness.

Reading our sweaty palms before a piano recital – increase heart rate before presenting a proposal to a large customer – a churning stomach as we wait in the doctor’s office – or the trembling legs when climbing into the pulpit on a Sunday morning! Signs of fear, which dramatically affect how we approach the situation at hand.

Jesus knew this. That is why this Sunday’s gospel reading talks a lot about fear.

Jesus recognizes that fear will cause the failure of discipleship. The twelve in training left the comfort of homes and family to follow Jesus as they proclaimed the kingdom of God is coming. Jesus understood faithful proclamation and practice of the gospel inevitably puts all disciples on a collision course with the powers of the world. So, Jesus today prepares the disciples for their mission.

As part of what seems almost like a pre-game “pep talk,” Jesus levels with the disciples about some of the challenges they will face, challenges including rejection and slander and persecution and perhaps even death. Let’s not forget, Matthew is writing not only about the original twelve but for the disciples of his community who were experiencing just these things and to us today.

Fear is the exact opposite of faith. In his life time, Jesus expresses the hallmark of good news to encourage his followers to have faith.

Remember the stories of Scripture; messages of good news, which were delivered by prophets, priests or angels, began with the words, “Do not fear.” When they began “woe unto you,” people would brace themselves for the storm which was coming their way. So, warning the disciples of coming persecutions – just as Jesus faced opposition and they will too – encourages them not to fear.

These words of Jesus, “Do not fear” are given to us, given to you: Olivia and Maddy this day.

Olivia and Maddy have been on a journey together for the past year. I am sure at the beginning there was some fear, some apprehension and thinking, “What did I get myself into?” And maybe too, you thought this day would never come. You’ve had class time learning about the bible, worship, the sacraments, Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church. You have experienced some fun filled moments like playing Bible hangman, helping pastor make communion bread and just a couple of trips to the Dairy Queen. You have participated in the life of the church and serving at our community meals. You’ve attended Holy Week services and dramatically read the Passion Story, some of you were up early for Easter and of course there was Christmas Eve Service. Maddy, you tried being an acolyte and did it with reverence and care; even though there were fears of setting the altar on fire. You served in other areas of the congregation as well. Olivia, you spent your time helping our little folk learn the love of God; the love you know

God has for you. You've done a very good job of being present and involved in the worship life of our church; and you have completed your assigned worship reports. In all of this, Olivia and Maddy, I saw you change and was amazed of how your faith grew.

Now I need to say something about this day.

Today isn't about Olivia and Maddy receiving a reward for their hard work or getting a gold/silver/bronze star for their attendance. It isn't about them receiving an extra blessing for knowing all the right answers about faith or God or the answer to: "Who wrote the Bible!" They don't become more holy than they were yesterday. Today is not about the church doing something to them. It may seem that today is about the church saying yes to them. "Yes" you are good enough. "Yes" you are enough. Or "yes", we accept you. Today is not about the church saying "yes" to them.

You see, God has already said "yes" to Olivia and Maddy. They don't need our approval today; they have God's approval.

Olivia and Maddy, what you are saying today is "yes" to God. You are affirming the "yes" your parents and godparents said on your behalf some years ago. You are affirming your baptism and entering more fully into the promises that were made on that day.

So, what exactly are you saying "yes" to today?

Live among God's faithful people

Coming to God's house and the Holy Supper

Working for justice and peace

Growing in faith through: Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell. Yes, learning about God and growing your faith doesn't stop today; learning is life long.

And above all you are saying "yes" to God's grace. And we know that grace is unconditional love and unconditional love is grace; the same grace and love that God has always had for you because you are a child of God.

Olivia and Maddy, you are the church of today not tomorrow or the future. You are the church of today. We need you, the church needs you, the world needs you. There are many people who say "no" to people in need. There are too many people who say "not yet". The world needs your "yeses"! We need to hear your voice. We need your voice of love, peace, and justice; to be the body of Christ this day and always.

My friends in Christ. Fear will always be part of our lives. Fear is part of the human state. There is fear in facing things that we do not know but there lies the excitement in the opportunities to exercise our faith. Do not fear, say "yes" to God, for you are not alone, God is with you; our God who has great value for us, who loves you, Olivia and Maddy, so deeply.

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

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC COMMUNIQUE

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

Congregational Council has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 28th, 2026 following the service. Purpose is to discuss calling a pastor with St. Peter's Pembroke and Grace Rankin. Copy of the motion and information can be found in the narthex of the church. Please plan to attend.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026

Olivia Helen Deighton

Born – July 16, 2012

Baptized – October 14, 2012

Confirmation Verse: Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.

Madison Presley Yuke

Born – December 4, 2012

Baptized – June 1, 2014

Sponsors: Krista Grosskleg and Jerritt Yuke

Confirmation Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.