



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 5 **June 28, 2026**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve on another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

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

Matthew dedicates much of his tenth chapter to discipleship.

He commissions the twelve disciples, empowers them to cure those who are sick and drive out evil spirits, sends them out to proclaim and enact the coming Kingdom of God, receives them back again with warnings of coming persecutions and trials, tells them whom to fear and whom to ignore, reminds them that the Gospel sparks division, calls them to take up their cross, and then promises them rewards for their faithfulness. And if that isn't enough, Jesus gives them a lesson on welcoming.

The message we hear in this morning's reading was important enough to Jesus and to the early church that some variation on this theme shows up in each of the other gospels and often more than once. Mark includes similar verses. Jesus in Luke declares that "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." The Jesus in John's gospel, in true poetic style, declares "Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me." And there are other numerous examples and variations throughout the New Testament.

The bottom-line emphasis seems to be on inclusion, welcome, and doing things for others – all those things it takes to build up community, to include the stranger as neighbours. In believing

the words of the Messiah, Jesus and the early disciples and later apostles put a high value on welcoming and proclaiming the presence of God.

Jesus doesn't actually talk about what the twelve are suppose to do. Did you notice this? He is talking about those who welcome the disciples: the servant, the helpers, those not considered terribly important, those at the bottom rung of the ladder of society; the ones who welcomes them by giving them even a cup of cold water. Yet even these, though as small a gesture as just giving a cup of water, are drawn into the mission of the disciples and in turn, the mission of Jesus.

Discipleship, in other words, doesn't have to be heroic; even offering a cold cup of water counts.

And this is only the beginning to the list!

Just smiling at strangers, instead of ignoring them.

Offering a shoulder to cry on or a handful of Kleenexes to a person who is grieving.

Just welcoming the family who moved in two doors down.

Writing a letter to our member of parliament.

Thanking a law enforcement officer or someone in the military for keeping us safe.

Just offering to buy some school supplies for a teacher whose budget has been cut.

Even helping out at St. Vincent de Paul's or The Grind soup kitchens or Pembroke's Food Bank.

Just speaking out when someone is being discriminated.

Supporting one of the many social agencies that St. Timothy's regularly cares "for the least of these."

Just making a phone call to a friend who has received some terrible news and telling them not to make supper because supper is on its way.

These are small gestures; you and I both know this. Yet in the kingdom of God, there is no small gesture when done in faith. Each and every act of kindness and generosity has an impact well beyond our imagination. Jesus tells us no act of generosity or kindness will be forgotten. You will never know the difference your faithful actions may have. And here is the thing, we have an opportunity to be Jesus' disciples and make a difference in the world each and every day no matter where ever we may be; whatever we are doing. We are not called to heroic discipleship but to genuine discipleship, the kind of discipleship characterized by everyday faith; everyday in the sense of ordinary.

There will be parties this weekend and on Wednesday; celebrating Canada's 159th Birthday. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream. In the evening, we will gaze at displays of fireworks. May we ask ourselves what Jesus meant in telling us over and over again, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

In this vast country of ours many people have left their homes from far away to call Canada theirs. You may as I do, have pictures of forefathers and foremothers coming to Canada years ago. They came to Canada and today people from around the world come to Canada. We may believe differently about the details of faith yet what does it mean to welcome, and how do we do that? What does it look like in our churches, in our neighbourhoods, in our attitudes? We are Christians first, as citizens of God's kingdom, living that faith in a Canadian context of privilege. Jesus didn't say that we have to agree on everything, and he told us clearly to be welcoming.

My friends in Christ. Your smallest, ordinary, mundane acts of kindness, generosity and welcoming done in faith will be remembered and will make a difference beyond what you see. So this day, this week, welcome the stranger by doing something ordinary. As Christian people we are called to be welcoming, for in welcoming others we welcome God and we get to be part of it! And that is truly exciting! 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 Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....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.