



# Mt Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church

*Making and Growing Followers of Jesus*

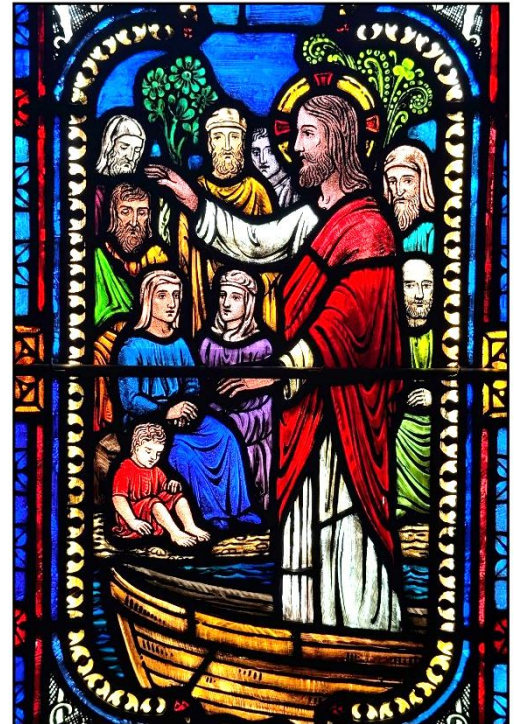
June 25, 2026

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

A big thank you to everyone who helped out with Vacation Bible School this week! It was wonderful to have children young and old learning about the mission God has placed on us to share His love and good news.

In this week's story, we are looking at Luke 5, when Jesus taught by the seashore. Jesus had gained popularity since healing Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4). After that, so many people wanted to see Jesus that they crowded around Him right up to the water's edge. He decided the best way to speak to them was from a boat, so He climbed into Peter's boat and had him pull out a little way so the whole crowd could hear him. Look at the individuals portrayed in the window - old and young, male and female, some heads covered and some bare. Each face bears a different expression, from the oldest and wisest to the innocent little child, perhaps sitting at his mother's feet.

After Jesus finished teaching from the boat, He told Peter to go out fishing again. Now in Galilee at the time, they mostly did night fishing. Peter is tired from a long night failing to catch fish, and now this carpenter wants to tell him how to do his job? Peter starts to talk back to Jesus, in Luke 5:5: "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." His rebellious spirit wants to push back, but at the same time, he remembers the miraculous healing of his mother-in-law. So he submits to the Lord saying, "Because you say so, I will let down the nets." Of course, the nets catch so many fish, they have to call another boat to help them drag the nets to shore.



Peter is astonished to realize this is no mere carpenter; this is the Messiah, doing another miracle to show that He is the Lord of Creation. Peter hits the dirt in a way reminiscent of Isaiah's response to a vision of God (Isaiah 6), saying to Jesus, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" What does Jesus do? He doesn't say, "You're right, you're nobody but a smelly fisherman, I'd better look elsewhere." No! Jesus immediately tells him not to be afraid and gives him a new commission; instead of fishing for fish, he will fish for people. Peter, James, and John immediately pull their boats to shore, leave everything, and follow Jesus.

As you prepare your hearts for worship this Sunday, imagine yourself in the crowd observing these events. What would you be thinking, first of Jesus' teaching and then of Jesus' miracle and the invitation to follow Him? How is God calling you to follow Him today? Ask the Lord if there is a way He wants to transform your current vocation into a greater work for the Kingdom of God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Carolyn