

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17, 2010**

Reading for January 17, 2010, Second Sunday after Epiphany:

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Faith Questions:

1. What idols have enticed and led you astray? What might be keeping you from proclaiming fully that Jesus is Lord?
2. During worship, one way that we worship God is with our monetary offerings. But offerings are also much more than money. The variety of gifts that God gives us can also be given as offerings. What gifts has God given you? How can you use those gifts as an offering to God? How can offering those gifts to God's service be an act of worship?
3. This text focuses a lot on the activities of the Holy Spirit. What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit? What was that like? Where might the Spirit be working in your life today?
4. Where might the Holy Spirit be working right now in the life of the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church? How might we experience this working?
5. As we move into this time of pastoral transition, what are your thoughts, hopes, and dreams for Trinity's future? What gifts do the people of Trinity have and how can they inform our identity and our work in the world as a people of God?

Let us pray:

Hello, God. We are filled with hopes and dreams, and have been given gifts that you expect us to use in service to you. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, and help us to use our dreams and our gifts to your glory.

For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)

Amen.

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Devotion prepared by staff at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Rebecca Kolowé, Diaconal Minister.

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