

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

Reading for February 7, 2010, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany:

LUKE 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' ⁵Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Faith Questions:

1. Jesus has obviously upset the disciples' understanding of what it means to be fishermen. He says, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When has the work of God in your life made you afraid? What, if anything, reassured you? How did that situation turn out?
2. When has Jesus turned everything in your life on its head and made you see things in a new way? Was that experience scary, exciting, or something else? Did you learn anything from it? What?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he talks about catching people? Are we included in Jesus' call to Simon? What does this call mean for our lives as modern Christians?
4. What would it mean for you to leave everything and follow Jesus? What things would you gladly leave behind? What or who would it be hard for you to leave?
5. What does the call to "fish for people" mean in relationship to Trinity Lutheran Church? What do you think the congregation's role in "fishing for people" should look like? Are we good at it? In what ways? Where do we need improvement? What is your vision of a church that effectively "fishes for people"?

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, you call us to fish for people. Help us to not be afraid when you turn everything on its head and challenge us to see things in a new way. Help us to be open to the leading of your Holy Spirit.

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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