

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SERMON OUTLINE -- MAY 14, 2023

The Gardener

(John 15:1-8)

INTRODUCTION: *My grandfather...
the loving, patient gardener*

I. JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

- A. True: authentic, enduring, perfect (John 15:1)
- B. All other “vines” we ‘graft’ ourselves into will let us down
- C. Jesus the true vine came to give us true life (Isaiah 53:2)

II. THE FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER/GARDENER

- A. He “lifts up” the branches so they can be closer to the sun (John 15:2)
- B. He does the same for us so we can be closer to Him
- C. He prunes/cleanses the branches so they can be fruitful (John 15:2)
- D. He does the same for us so we, free from sin & life’s excesses, can be fruitful

III. WHEN WE ARE PRUNED/CLEANSED IT CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE OR PAINFUL

- A. *The story of the immigrant family on the train & the action of the conductor*
- B. The Father’s pruning is always from His love and for our good
- C. We may not understand it immediately, but we will eventually

(continued on other side)

IV. WE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE LIFTED UP and WE ARE PRUNED BY OUR VINEDRESSER

- A. Being pruned is the work of God's Law
- B. Being lifted up is the work of the Gospel
- C. Both are done so we branches can **abide in Jesus** the true vine & bear fruit (John 15:4-5)
- D. And here's some great news: Jesus chooses to **abide in us** that His life & power can be in us & flow from us (John 15:5; John 14:20,23)
- E., Jesus the vine living in us His branches, gives us a new life & brand new heart (Ezekiel 11:19)

CONCLUSION: *January 2, 1968: a brand new heart [transplant]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGM Follow-Up Motion on Sunday, May 28

1. The minutes of the AGM are posted on the bulletin board. Copies are available in the church office.
2. Further to our discussion at the AGM, a formal motion to reduce the mortgage by \$150,000, using available funds, should also be passed. To this end, **a formal vote will be held at the end of each fellowship's worship service on May 28th**. This will allow us more flexibility in negotiating a favourable interest rate prior to the end of the current term.

All Ladies are invited...

... to meet on **Thursday, May 18th at 1:30pm**. We will enjoy a Bible Study, discuss some financial issues, and plan for a suggested social outing in June to London Farm in Richmond before a summer break.

If you were unable to attend our Saturday rally a week ago, it was a wonderful morning of fellowship and we enjoyed a captivating and informative presentation from Rev. Syens regarding life as it is now in the Ukraine and how our "grace" donations are being deployed. We will review some of the highlights at our next meeting.

Hope you are able to attend.