

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 13

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In the opening three chapters of the book of Revelation, St. John penned the seven letters God sent to seven churches in the province of Asia Minor. To one of these churches in Laodicea, we hear the Savior saying: “*Look, I stand at the door and I am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in with him and dine with him, and he with me*” (3:20). Some incorrectly understand Jesus’ words as an invitation to unbelievers to “make a decision” to accept Jesus into their hearts and come to faith.

We know that to be impossible, however, from multiple passages of Scripture. In one such passage, St. Paul reminds us: “*No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Martin Luther, too, clearly confessed in his explanation to the Third Article that focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit: “I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the truth faith.”

What’s more, Jesus made His inviting appeal to a Christian congregation of people who are already believers. Jesus is simply urging them—as well as applying this appeal to all believers—to stay connected to Him through His word, faithfully follow Him and live their Christian faith verses following the ways of the sinful world.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, “The Divine Service” (*Rite Two*)

Hymns: 236, 207, 515, 597

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Proverbs 9:1-6. Jesus Himself is that wisdom here personified. He has built His house, the Church, in which He provides food for the soul. The one who scorns the heavenly food, the real wisdom, Christ Himself, feeds on folly; such a one will be a scoffer and a scorner, unrighteous in his soul and unrighteous in his life. But where wisdom is the food, where Christ Himself is holy and banquet, there is understanding of life and its purpose, of death and its goal, and of all that is necessary in between and beyond.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 1. The one whose delight is in the Word of God, who feeds his soul with wisdom from above, shuns the companionship of those who feed only on folly. (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Ephesians 5:15-20. As with the other readings this Sunday, this reading also stresses that there are only two paths to walk. Either we walk in

folly or in wisdom. Those whose food is wisdom walk with God. Their path is one of understanding and joy, even in the evil times. For the Spirit fills them by means of His Word of peace and joy and thanksgiving in Christ.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. Alleluia. (Hebrews 4:12, EHV)

Gospel: John 6:51-58. Our Lord spells out very clearly the nature of the two kinds of food for the soul. Those who imagine that the only food is physical and temporal feed their souls on bread that perishes. But those whose food is Christ Himself and His Word of the gospel, eat a bread that lasts forever.

Sermon: Ephesians 5:15-20

Theme - “Keep Walking In God’s Wisdom”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: The writer of Proverbs personifies wisdom. From **John 1:17 & 1 Corinthians 1:24** who is the “*wisdom of God*” personified?
- Epistle: According to Paul, how do we as Christians follow the way of wisdom?
- Gospel: How do we—based on the context here— “*eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood?*” (v.53)
- Gospel: Peak ahead to **John 6:60**. How did the crowd and Jesus’ disciples react to His teaching?
- Gospel: How does the above verse support that we “cannot by our own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to Him”? (See **Matthew 19:26**).

Announcements:

- + Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. We are studying the Book of Psalms.
- + Confirmation class will begin Monday, September 13. We will hold class every Monday from 3:30-5:00 pm at the church.
- + Sunday school will begin on September 12. Thank you to Alyce and Diane for the continued willingness to teach our children God’s precious word!
- + Our Synod’s Giving Counselor, Pastor Dan Basel, will be in the Michigan/Ohio circuit for a full two weeks. He’d love to visit you to plan and possibly give to the Lord’s work. Have you remembered the Lord in your will or estate plan? Does your plan need a review? Pastor Basel is here to help you help your church continue to proclaim the Gospel. He can also help you set up gifts to support local ministry or missions at home and around the world. He also can help with simple or complex estate plans to help you

support yourself while you live and support ministry after the Lord calls you home. His cell number 507-469-9656. His email at danbasel@blc.edu.

Proverbs 9:1-6 – Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has already set her table. She has sent out her servant girls. She calls from the highest point in the city, “Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here.” To someone who lacks sense she says, “Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding.” (EHV™)

Ephesians 5:15-20 – Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as unwise people, but as wise people. Make the most of your time, because the days are evil. For this reason, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk on wine, which causes you to lose control. Instead, be filled with the Spirit by speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (EHV™)

John 6:51-58 – “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.” (EHV™)