

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 14

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Speaking to Christian people (Joshua to Old Testament believers; Paul to believers living their respective God-given roles which reflect their acceptance of God's word and love for Jesus; Jesus to His disciples in the gospel), God bids us to live our lives faithful to Him by what we say and do. Obviously, we cannot do so without the lifelines of God's word and sacraments.

Truly, as Christians who faithfully cling to these lifelines, the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith to serve and walk with God despite the challenges of living in a sinful world. In John 6, Jesus continues His "Bread of Life" discourse stressing that He and His word remain our spiritual bread of life now and for eternity. Just as physical bread nourishes the body, God's spiritual bread (word) keeps us in the faith and living for God.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 109, "Matins."

Hymns:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18. Joshua calls those, who have been richly fed by the life-giving word of the LORD and who have seen God's might and saving acts, to remain faithful to their Savior while living in an ungodly world.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 71. As the LORD has been our help and refuge in the past, so He will be in the present and in the future. That is our hope and confidence in the midst of the ridicule and persecution that we face, when we are faithful to our faithful God and Savior (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Ephesians 5:21-31. In sinfulness, people can react with hostility toward God's teaching regarding the proper role of man and woman. Nonetheless, as Christians we trust all our heavenly Bridegrooms roles as established, when He perfectly created the world.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Our Savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (2 Timothy 1:10b, cf. EHV)

Gospel: John 6:60-69. Those who refused the saving food and divine wisdom offered in the Jesus' word of truth go away grumbling. Jesus' response is sorrow at their departure. But that sorrow does not move Him to compromise the truth; He continues boldly confessing equally difficult truths about His coming triumph. The Spirit, who gives life by the bread of life, prompts the likewise bold confession from Peter to the divine person and

work of the Savior. That beautiful confession, inspired by the word and based upon it, comes at a moment when friends had gone away—a tribute to the effectiveness of God's word in the face of what must have been very painful opposition.

Sermon: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Theme - "My House Will Serve The LORD"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Why could this section of Scripture be appropriate for confirmation Sunday?
- Epistle: In this section of Scripture, Paul is not discussing equality before God, since he wrote in **Galatians 3:26-28**: "*In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is not Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one and the same in Christ Jesus.*" Rather, Paul is discussing role relationships among husbands, wives, and children. What is each to do, which reflects love and respect for the Savior and His word?
- Epistle: Paul quotes **Genesis 2:24** in v.31. What three characteristics involve marriage according to God's word and institution?
- Epistle: Jesus submitted Himself too and will submit to His heavenly Father (**1 Corinthians 15:28** "will also be subjected to"). Why can't this word "submit or be subjected to," then, be understood as expressing inferiority?
- Gospel: Jesus "Bread of Life Discourse" comes to a close as we wrap-up John 6. What is at the root of why Jesus' teaching was so "hard" for people to accept?
- Gospel: What's Peter's answer to Jesus' question of faithfulness?

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 3:15-5:00 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.

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 – Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel has said.” Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!” The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!” (EHV™)

Ephesians 5:21-31 – ...and by submitting to one another in reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he himself is the Savior. Moreover, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.” (EHV™)

John 6:60-69 – When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.” After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (EHV™)