

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6134 US 23 North, Rogers City, MI 49779

(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Pastor Jeffery J. Luplow

Organist: Mrs. Diane Smuda

Pastor's Phone: 989-295-3240

Email: pastorjluplow@gmail.com

Pentecost 16

September 12, 2021

In the book of Genesis, we repeatedly here the phrase describing what God created as “good.” When we hear the word “good,” we often think of that as meaning, “Well...something is ok, but it’s not excellent or even perfect.” But when God created all, it was “**very good**” (**Genesis 1:31**), meaning that it was **perfect**—the Fall into sin hadn’t yet corrupted.

Although we now live in a world fallen into sin and remain plagued by sin’s effect (**Romans 8**), God continues to provide us with good. He certainly provides for our physical needs, as we confess in the First Article: “I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life...” James summarized that truth: “*Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights...*” (**James 1:17**).

But most of all, God graciously provided and provides for us spiritually! He sent Jesus to solve our worst problem of sin and to conquer sin’s death consequence. He provides His word and sacraments to bless us spiritually. Those truths remain the Christian’s quiet confidence to live and to share while living in a sin-fallen world with its uncertainties.

Order of Worship: CW Page 15, “*Common Service.*”

Hymns: 497, 364, 470 (1-4, 7), 441

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 35:4-7a. This reading depicts our spiritual needs in physical terms. Physical weakness and trouble mirror the absolute state of need in which we are born. Troubles, fears, weaknesses, however, drive us to despair of our own strength, opening our hearts and minds to look for help. It’s then, the Holy Spirit opens hearts to hear and ears to believe God’s solution in His Savior. This reading is a promise of such help from the Messiah, who alone can solve that absolute spirit need and who alone rules over the physical mirrors of that need to that they are turned to blessing.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 146. Privately and publicly, we give thanks and praise to the LORD, who does all things well. For when all men fail and the mighty are shown to be powerless, He remains true to His Word and rescues those who trust in Him (CW pg.120).

Epistle: James 1:17-27. It is God’s nature to give good gifts to His children. In fact, those are the only kinds of gifts He can give. For His essence is changeless. What then should we conclude in every time of trouble or need? It is a good gift from God and will yet be seen as such.

-1-

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice! Alleluia. (Philippians 4:4, EHV)

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37. That Jesus does all things well is, of course, a biblical understatement. Consider just how well He does all things. There is nothing mechanical in His manner or method. He takes into account this individual’s very personal needs. The poor man is frightened and comprehends perhaps nothing of what the crowd is doing with him. But Jesus understands; Jesus deals with even the momentary fear of the man most gently. That is how He always deals with us...with perfect understanding and compassion as radiated by the message of His cross of forgiveness.

Sermon: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Theme - “Be Strong In THE Faith”

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Of what did Isaiah reassure God’s faithful people living in Israel?
- Old Testament: What’s the ultimate fulfilment of the “spiritual revival” that Isaiah speaks? (See **Luke 7:22; Matthew 15:31; 21:14; Mark 7:37**).
- Epistle: How does James indicate we demonstrate the sincerity of our faith in **v. 21**?
- Epistle: Some say that James teaches salvation by works based on what he wrote in chapter 2:14-18. How do we correctly understand James’ point in this section of Scripture—that he’s not teaching we are saved by our good works?
- Gospel: Jesus demonstrated His humanity by manifesting human characteristics (eating, sleeping, suffering, etc.). What “divine” characteristics does He demonstrate here that attest to His divinity?

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 began today. Thank you to Alyce and Diane for their continued willingness to teach our children God’s precious word!

Isaiah 35:4-7a – Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God’s own retribution, he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. (EHV™)

-2-

James 1:17-27 – Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or

shift like a shadow. Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations. Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. Certainly, a man's anger does not bring about what is right before God. So after getting rid of all moral filthiness and overflowing wickedness, receive with humility the word planted in you. It is able to save your souls. Be people who do what the word says, not people who only hear it. Such people are deceiving themselves. In fact, if anyone hears the word and does not do what it says, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own natural face in a mirror. Indeed, he carefully looks at himself; then, he goes away and immediately forgets what he looked like. But the one who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to do so—since he does not hear and forget but actually does what it says—that person will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself to be religious but deceives his own heart because he does not bridle his tongue, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world. (EHV™)

Mark 7:31-37 – Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis. They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!") Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" (EHV™)