

# 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

**Christmas 2**

**January 2, 2022**

Today, we celebrate the “Second Sunday after Christmas.” Yes, the official Christmas season and its related celebrations have passed for another year. Nonetheless, our LORD’s word never “*perishes, spoils and fades*” (1 Peter 1:3-4). Rather, the word of the Lord endures forever!

In today’s Old Testament lesson, we hear our LORD pledge such an enduring promise. Although He, as our power “*God Almighty*” makes this promise to Abraham, we correctly understand how this divine promises blesses all people through Abraham’s descendent, our Savior Jesus, who came from the family live of Abraham.

What’s more, St. Paul in today’s epistle reading affirms how God fulfilled this promise according to His divine time schedule. God sent His Son, true God from eternity, to be born in time through Mary so He could redeem sinners and make believers His legal heirs.

Finally, in the appointed gospel section from Luke, the evangelist records Zechariah’s praise to God for keeping His promise to send Jesus, the world’s Savior. Truly, all these lessons stress how God acts according to His own unbreakable commitments, in line with His time timetable and undeserved grace, to send His Son, the world’s Savior.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 15 with communion.

Hymns: 164, 165 (1-5), 313 (1-2), 165 (9)

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-7.* When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD confirmed His covenant with Abram. The LORD again promised that Abram would be the father of many nations; hence God Almighty changed his name to Abraham which means “father of many.” The LORD promised to show love to Abraham and his descendants who, by faith, would also look to the LORD (Jehovah) as their God.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 148.* The goodness of the LORD continues throughout all generations. With His creation, we praise Him. (*Supplement*)

*Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7.* St. Paul explains that God waited for just the right time—His time—in the course of human events to fulfill His promise and send His Son, who is true God and true man. Jesus lived under the law just like every human, but He did it perfectly. He did so that He might redeem us from the slavery of sin, death and the devil.

*Verse of the Day: Alleluia.* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b, EHV)

*Gospel: Luke 1:68-79.* When John the Baptizer was born, his father,

Zechariah, bursts into a joyful song. He rejoiced and praised God because his son is the forerunner of the promised Messiah. God had indeed remembered His “holy covenant” and sent a Savior.

*Sermon: Genesis 17:1-7*

*Theme - “The LORD Confirms His Covenant With Sinners”*

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How many years had passed since the LORD had first made this promise to Abram? (see Genesis 12:4)
- Old Testament: How does St. Paul affirm in Romans 4 what the LORD promises here?
- Epistle: What’s Paul’s point in the last line be describing both men and women God’s “sons”?
- Gospel: When comparing Zechariah’s song of praise (specifically in verse 73) with today’s Old Testament lesson, how does doing so affirm: “The New Testament is concealed in the Old; the Old Testament is revealed in the New”?

## Announcements:

+ Sunday school 8-8:40 a.m.

+ Bible class 8-8:30 a.m. We will be studying the book of Psalms.

+ Confirmation class – Friday from 3-5 p.m.

**Holy Communion** - We celebrate the Lord’s Supper because Jesus instructed us to do so, and God offers us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through it (Matthew 26:28). We believe the Bible’s teaching that receiving the Sacrament together is a way of expressing unity in our beliefs as one body (1 Corinthians 10:17). We therefore respectfully ask that guests who are not members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, refrain from communing here until becoming familiar with our beliefs and express agreement. We in no way imply that you are not a Christian or are not “good enough” for us. God’s Word teaches us to regard communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. In communion we publicly confess that we agree in all that we teach and confess on the basis of the Bible (Matthew 28:20, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 10:17). We pray that you understand and will respect this practice of Close Communion. We encourage you to seek more information about the confession that unites us and would love to meet with you if you have questions regarding Close Communion.

**Genesis 17:1-7** – When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous.” Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, “As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from

you. Kings will come out of you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you. (EHV™)

**Galatians 4:4-7** – But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ. (EHV™)

**Luke 1:68-79** – Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets. He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to Abraham our father, to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies, so that we are able to serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, because of God’s tender mercies, by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us, to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (EHV™)