

# 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](mailto:pastorjluplow@gmail.com)

## Pentecost 8

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After Jesus had silenced a challenge to His divinity by the Sadducees, the Pharisees gave it a try. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Jesus with this question: "*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*" (Matthew 22:36) Jesus masterfully answered, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'*" (Matthew 22:37-39). So true! The First Table of the Law (Commandments 1-3) outlines how we are to love and respect God. The Second Table of the Law (Commandments 4-10) presents how God expects us to love and respect all other people ("our neighbor").

Truly, if we love God perfectly (First Commandment), we would never sin. What's more, if we could keep that First Commandment flawlessly, we would automatically keep Commandments 2-10. Therefore, we concur with St. Paul, when he wrote this Spirit-directed statement: "*Love is the fulfillment of the law*" (Romans 13:10). But there remains only One Who loved and loves perfectly: our God and Savior Jesus (John 3:16).

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

Hymns: 492 (1-5), 227 (1-3, 6), Amazing Grace, 492 (6)

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:9-14.* Moses reminded the Israelites, while on the threshold of the Promised Land, that their covenant LORD would never be far from them if they followed His word and He would bless them.

*Psalms of the Day: Psalm 25.* Especially in times of crisis, God's people seek to be guided in the LORD's truth. We look to that covenant LORD of free and faithful grace as our refuge (*Supplement*).

*Epistle: Colossians 1:1-14.* Paul thanks God for the Colossians' faith and prays that God would fill them with the knowledge of His word/will.

*Gospel: Luke 10:25-37.* Jesus teaches us how faith saves and true faith demonstrates its sincerity through Christian love.

*Sermon: Colossians 1:1-14*

*Theme - "Thank God For The Gospel's Growing Season"*

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: The LORD had directed Moses to have the entire law read to all the people at least once every seven years. How would we summarize Moses' message in verses 11-13?
- Old Testament: What's Moses' point in verse 14?

- Epistle: How did the Colossians demonstrate their Christian love?
- Epistle: According to verse 14, what's the foundation and motivation for our acts of Christian love?
- Gospel: Jesus expects us to produce fruits of faith, including acts of Christian love. What did this expert in the law incorrectly think about "good works"?
- Gospel: How did Jesus lead this law expert to see his sin?
- Gospel: According to Jesus, who is our neighbor?

### Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class, Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation Class: off this week.

+ [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) – a resource for timely, topical subjects and what the Bible says.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

**Deuteronomy 30:9-14** – The LORD your God will cause you to be overflowing with good things from all the work of your hands, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your animals, and in the fruit of your soil. For once again he will rejoice over your prosperity, just as he rejoiced over your fathers, when you obey the voice of the LORD your God by keeping his commandments and his statutes written in this Book of the Law, when you return to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Certainly, this commandment that I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not far away. It is not up in the heavens, so that you have to say, "Which one of us will go up to the heavens and get it for us so we can listen to it and carry it out?" It is not across the sea, so that you have to say, "Which one of us will cross over to the other side of the sea and get it for us so we can listen to it and carry it out?" Instead, the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so you can obey it. (EHV<sup>TM</sup>)

**Colossians 1:1-14** – Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit. For this reason, from the day we heard about your love, we also have not stopped praying for you. We keep asking that

you would be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you might live in a way that is worthy of the Lord. Our goal is that you please him by bearing fruit in every kind of good work and by growing in the knowledge of God, as you are being strengthened with all power because of his glorious might working in you. Then you will have complete endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (EHV™)

**Luke 10:25-37** – Just then, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “What do you read there?” He replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself.” He said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell among robbers who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. It just so happened that a priest was going down that way. But when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite also happened to go there, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. A Samaritan, as he traveled, came to where the man was. When he saw him, he felt sorry for the man. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He put him on his own animal, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, when he left, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. Whatever extra you spend, I will repay you when I return.’ Which of these three do you think acted like a neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?” “The one who showed mercy to him,” he replied. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (EHV™)