

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

Pentecost 11

August 21, 2022

As Christians, our lives in this world have special significance, but it isn't to acquire earthly wealth, possessions, fame, or honor. Our goal is to remain faithful to our Savior and reach life everlasting. During this earthly life, we live by grace; ours is to remain wise caretakers of God's gospel and spread His word to others. So many people pursue the "stuff" of this sinful world to find meaning in life. Yet, such pursuits amount to nothing more than an inheritance that others receive after one dies. To be rich toward God means to live lives of thanksgiving for all that He has given us through Jesus Christ.

In our Gospel reading, the man in the crowd called Jesus "teacher," but hadn't learned the importance of WHO Jesus was and WHAT He has called us to do during this time of grace. Paul tells us that lesson in Colossians: "*Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.*" These terms do not simply mean that Christians ignore all earthly and physical concerns. Rather, Paul reminds us not to "earthly things" preoccupy and smother our faith and living for Jesus.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, THE DIVINE SERVICE "*Rite Two*" with communion.

Hymns: 263 (1-5), 446 (1-4, 8), 414 (2), 263 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-25. Blessed by the LORD with wisdom that no one else ever had or will ever rival, Solomon speaks to the futility of earthly things verses contentment with God's blessings.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 34. The psalmist, David, reminds us of the value our LORD places on His believers (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11. Paul urges us to put Jesus first and live God-pleasing lives accordingly.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him." Alleluia. (John 14:23, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21. Jesus teaches us about enduring, "true" wealth from God's divine perspective.

Sermon: Luke 12:13-21 - "Be Rich With God"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What are the blessings the LORD gives to the righteous person?
- Old Testament: What tedious task does the LORD give sinners?

- Old Testament: What is the key to being content? To what does St. Paul attribute the "secret" of being content in Philippians 3:7-11; 4:11-13?
- Epistle: Some people make rules for holy living, such as no drinking, gambling, or dancing. How are Paul's guidelines for holy living different?
- Epistle: What does it mean that "your life is now hidden with Christ in God?" (See Romans 6:1-4; 8:16-21; Philippians 3:20-21)
- Gospel: How are we "rich toward God"?
- Gospel: Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against *all kinds* of greed." What kinds of greed most affect our lives?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation class: ?

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.

Ecclesiastic 1:2; 2:18-25 - "Nothing but vapor," Ecclesiastes said. "Totally vapor. Everything is just vapor that vanishes." I also hated all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard under the sun, since I must leave it all to the man who comes after me. And who knows—will he be wise, or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard and so wisely, under the sun. This too is vapor that vanishes. So I changed my course, and my heart began to despair over all my hard work at which I worked so hard under the sun. Sure, there may be a man who has worked hard—wisely, aptly, and skillfully. But he must hand over whatever he accumulated by all his hard work to a man who has not worked hard for it. This too is vapor. It's so unfair! For what does a man gain through all his hard work, through all the turmoil in his heart as he works so hard under the sun? Pain fills his days. His occupation is frustration. Even at night his heart does not rest. This too is vapor. There is nothing better for a man than to eat and to drink and to find joy in his work. This too, I saw, is from God's hand. For who can eat and enjoy himself apart from him? Yes, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness to the man whom he considers good, but to the person who goes on

sinning God gives the task of gathering and collecting, but only so that he can give it all to a person whom God considers good. This too is vapor, nothing but chasing wind. (EHV™)

Colossians 3:1-11 – Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. So put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. You too once walked in these things, when you were living in them. But now, you too are to rid yourselves of all of these: wrath, anger, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. Do not lie to each other since you have put off the old self with its practices, and put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in knowledge, according to the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but rather Christ is all and is in all. (EHV™)

Luke 12:13-21 – Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?” Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.” He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. And I will tell my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.’” “But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’ “That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” (EHV™)

Mission News: You are invited...to attend the Lutheran Women’s Mission Society (LWMS) rally on Saturday, **August 27**, from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** St. John congregation of Frankenmuth will host. Both women and men are encouraged to attend. Learn the latest information on what we continue to support as a synod, when it comes to both home and world mission projects. Such a rally also gives attendees a chance to meet and fellowship with other sisters and brothers in the ELS from Michigan and Ohio. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Luplow.

Outdoor Service: Please remember that our outdoor Sunday worship service will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for details.