

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 15

September 18, 2022

Life in the kingdom of God is often opposite what the world expects it to be. The world expects someone who does a hard job to be paid well; the world expects those who are the best at something to win an award; the world expects those in high positions to be honored. But we find that in the life of faith, God “rewards” those who do the hard job of spreading God’s word in spiritual ways...not earthly. God calls on us to serve without personal gain, especially those in need who cannot repay us in this world.

But make no mistake about it, our Savior will “reward” such acts of kindness done in faith, out of thanksgiving for His free gift of salvation. As Jesus assured, “*And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward*” (Matthew 10:42). What grace! Our God “*works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose*” (Philippians 2:13) and blesses us in the process! No wonder, after establishing that God saves us by grace alone through faith alone, Paul stresses that true faith is never alone. He writes, “*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*” (Ephesians 2:10). Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, THE DIVINE SERVICE “*Rite Two*” with communion.

Hymns: 441 (1-3), 261, 414 (4), 441 (4)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Proverbs 25:6-7. Self-exaltation has no place in the life of God’s child. Rather, as we trust our humble Savior, who willingly laid aside His majesty to save us, we cloak ourselves with Christ-like humility.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 119a. “Blessed” or happy is the person who seeks the LORD with all his heart. He will never be put to shame. (*Supplement*)

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-8. The Holy Spirit’s writer to the Hebrews outlines how Christian faith tangibly displays its fruits by living for our unchanging Jesus.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Your words became a joy for me, and a delight for my heart. Alleluia. (Jeremiah 15:16, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14. Living for Jesus as His faithful followers turns human, conventional thinking upside down. Jesus calls us to attain greatness through humility and to be most generous where there is no chance for repayment.

Sermon Text: Proverbs 25:6-7

Theme: “**Humble Yourselves Before The LORD**”

-1-

Points to ponder from the day’s Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: These are simple words of advice. What is our Christian motivation to carry out this advice?
- Old Testament: For what did Solomon, the “*wisest man who has ever lived on this earth,*” ask the LORD? (1 Kings 3)
- Old Testament: What are various ways we exalt ourselves “*in the king’s presence*” today?
- Epistle: What is the basis/motivation for a life of faith in Jesus?
- Epistle: What are some of the specific ways Christians can show their faith according to what the Hebrew writer outlines here?
- Epistle: Case Study – A friend lives with his girlfriend in a sexual relationship outside of God’s gift of marriage. What counsel could you give that friend based on what the Holy Spirit directed the Hebrew writer to include here?
- Epistle: Agree/Disagree – We are to imitate Jesus and not the faith of our leaders.
- Epistle: One of the characteristics or attributes of Jesus is that He is immutable. What does that mean and what is the practical blessing for us that results from that truth about our Savior?
- Gospel: Why did the Pharisees carefully “*watch*” Jesus?
- Gospel: In verses 8–11 there is a parable (an earthly story with a spiritual point). What is the spiritual meaning of this parable?

Announcements:

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

+ Sunday School at 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation class: Monday – 3:30-4:45 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.

Proverbs 25:6-7 - Do not honor yourself in a king’s presence. Do not stand in a place reserved for great people, because it is better to be told, “Come up

-2-

here,” than for you to be humiliated before a ruler whom your eyes have seen. (EHV™)

Hebrews 13:1-8 – Continue to show brotherly love. Do not fail to show love to strangers, for by doing this some have welcomed angels without realizing it. Remember those in prison, as if you were fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were also suffering bodily. Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said: I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you. So then we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What will man do to me? Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (EHV™)

Luke 14:1, 7-14 - One Sabbath day, when Jesus went into the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat bread, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, he told the invited guests a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor, or perhaps someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him. The one who invited both of you may come and tell you, ‘Give this man your place.’ Then you will begin, with shame, to take the lowest place. “But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will tell you, ‘Friend, move up to a higher place.’ Then you will have honor in the presence of all who are reclining at the table with you. “Yes, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” He also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, so that perhaps they may also return the favor and pay you back. “But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.” (EHV™)