

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

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The Broadway musical writer, George Gershwin, once commented, "The things that you're liable to read in the Bible...it ain't necessarily so." What can we conclude from such an opinion? To this day people think in their sinfulness that the solution to sin and God is to deny them or at least minimize their significance. Regardless of what man concludes, reasons and thinks, however, all remain "liable" to God for their debt of sin.

As the church year draws to a close, the thought of Christ's return on the Last Day to judge the world comes to the forefront of our Scripture lessons. Jesus will return someday to "judge the living and the dead" as we confess in the Apostles' Creed. Some deny this reality...hoping it's not true; others wait in terror.

As God's people, though, we lift up our heads in anticipation as our final redemption draws near. We don't have to deny God or fear Jesus. Jesus came to win salvation for us by fulfilling the demands of God's holy law. He suffered and died on the cross to pay for all our sins. Jesus rose victoriously from death to assure He conquered our sin and defeated death.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** "Rite Two" communion.

Hymns: 381 (1-5), 382, 429 (3), 381 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-30. Jacob wrestled with an unknown man throughout the night until daybreak. This man was the LORD, who took on human form. Jacob would not let go until he received a blessing, and subsequently the LORD changed his name to Israel, which means "wrestles with God."

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 90. The fleeting breath of life will cause the children of God "to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Supplement).

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5. In this "last will and testament" of Paul, he continues to offer encouraging guidance to his young mentee, Timothy.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Alleluia. (Ephesians 2:10a, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8. The parable of the unjust judge, we hear how the judge eventually grants to widow's request simply because she "keeps bothering" him.

Sermon: Genesis 32:22-30

Theme - "Wrestle With The LORD In Prayer"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Jesus took on a human nature in the incarnation, His Bethlehem birth. That does not mean, however, that our LORD didn't take on human form prior to His human birth, as demonstrated in the Old Testament. What evidence is there in these verses that show that this "unknown" man to Jacob was God in human form?
- Old Testament: How do we, like Jacob, struggle with God?
- Epistle: What proof does Paul give here that the Bible is God's inerrant, inspired word?
- Epistle: Where is evidence here of Jesus' return on Judgment Day?
- Epistle: What one phrase captures Paul's main directive to Timothy?
- Gospel: Agree/Disagree – God more readily will grant justice to His believers, who persistently cry out to Him day and night.

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+Confirmation Class: Monday 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ timeofgrace.org – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **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.

Genesis 32:22-30 - He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak." Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." Then he said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won." Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there. Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life has been spared." (EVH™)

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 - As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be

complete, well equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry. (EVH™)

Luke 18:1-8 - Jesus told them a parable about the need to always pray and not lose heart: “There was a judge in a certain town who did not fear God and did not care about people. There was a widow in that town, and she kept going to him, saying, ‘Give me justice from my adversary!’ For some time he refused, but after a while he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God or care about people, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice so that she will not wear me out with her endless pleading.’” The Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will not God give justice to his chosen ones, who are crying out to him day and night? Will he put off helping them? I tell you that he will give them justice quickly.” (EVH™)