

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

Lent 2

March 5, 2023

As we continue to journey with our Savior to Calvary's cross and Easter's empty tomb, our Old Testament reading paints a picture of faith's meaning in the nuts and bolts of Abram's everyday life. Abram's life could breathe confidence and trust because he believed in God's promise to send him a Savior...the Savior for all.

In the epistle lesson, Paul ties his discussion of righteousness by faith to father Abraham—in the flesh the father of the Jews; by his faith...the father of all believers who put their faith in Jesus.

The gospel speaks of our Savior's "evangelism" conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. In short, the Scripture lessons indicate why God sent Jesus into the world: to save sinners who put their faith in what Jesus did.

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

Hymns: 240, 222, 314 (7, 9), 592

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-8. Abram did not deserve the LORD's promises, but underserved love sought him. By grace, Abram's faith led him to leave his homeland and cling to the LORD's promise. Wherever he wandered, Abram's faith led him to continually worship his God.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 121. The psalmist urges us to raise our eyes to the "hills of Jerusalem" (the Church) where the ever-present LORD stands ready to help His people. (*Supplement*)

Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17. Paul again provides commentary on the first lesson. As the history of Abraham shows, a man is justified by faith, not by works. The Scriptures record that "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Abraham's faith charts the way for believers; indeed, by faith, we become his children and heirs to the wonderful promise God made to Abraham and fulfilled in His Son.

Verse of the Day: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b, EHV)

Gospel: John 4:5-26. Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. He reveals Himself to her as the promised Messiah. Through Him the spiritually thirsty receive drink that becomes in them "a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Sermon: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Theme - "Give God Credit...Where Credit Is Due"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Review Genesis chapters 15 & 17. What is significant about the LORD changing Abram's name to Abraham? (See especially 17:5)

- Old Testament: How did Abra(ha)m demonstrate his faith and show that God's way of salvation was the same then as it is today?
- Epistle: Paul writes how Abraham was justified before God. How did that happen?
- Gospel: What type of water did the Samaritan woman think Jesus meant?
- Gospel: How did Jesus use this metaphor of water to teach a spiritual truth?
- Gospel: How does God give us this "living water" today?

Announcements:

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. Thank you!

+ 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 12:1-8 - Now the LORD said to Abram, "Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father's house and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land until he came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in the land at that time. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on

the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD. (EHV™)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 - What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. For what does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness. Indeed, the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not given to Abraham or his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness that is by faith. To be sure, if people are heirs by the law, faith is empty and the promise is nullified. For law brings wrath. (Where there is no law, there is no transgression.) For this reason, the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham’s descendants—not only to the one who is a descendant by law, but also to the one who has the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” (EHV™)

John 4:5-26 - So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Then Jesus, being tired from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” she said, “you don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his animals.” Jesus answered her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life.” “Sir, give me this water,” the woman said to him, “so I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus told her, “Go, call your husband, and come back here.” “I have no husband,” the woman answered. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say, ‘I have no husband.’ In fact, you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews insist that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming and now is here when the real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (the one called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Jesus said to her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.” (EHV™)