

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

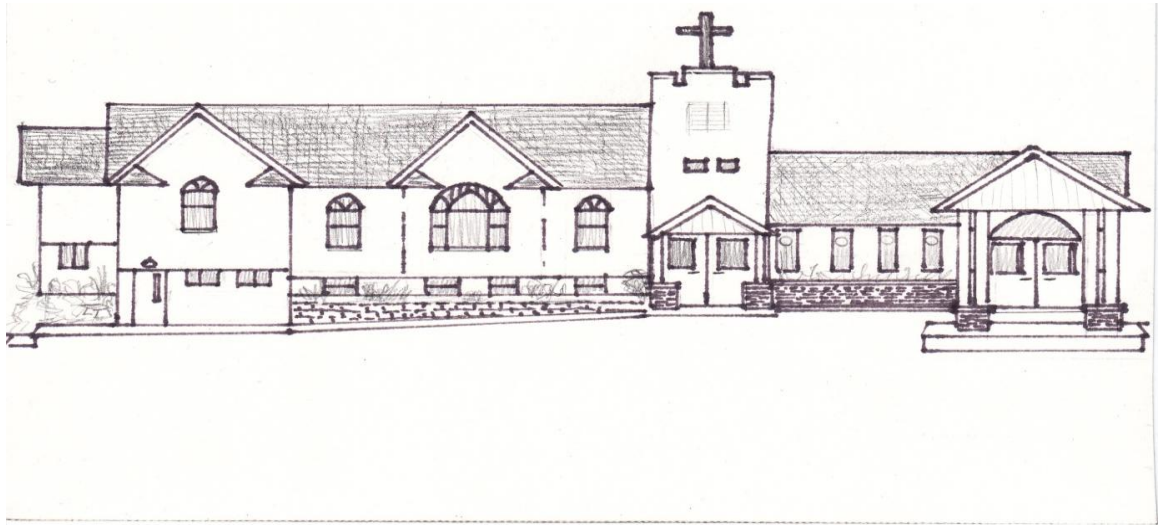
Stpeterlutheranchurch.net

13221 W. Todd School Rd.

Glasford, Illinois 61533

309-389-5342

Pastor Raymond Barclay



Sketch drawn by Alice Diver

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

PRELUDE: ORGAN / CLAVINOVA

[*] REQUESTS YOUR RISING IF COMFORTABLE

CALL TO WORSHIP BY OUR CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY



Introduction to the Worship Service

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

***ENTRANCE HYMN *Beautiful Savior* (LBW 518)**

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 56)**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

***INVOCATION (LBW p. 57)**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . .

P Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Give us this bread, that he may live in us and we in him, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The First Lesson is from the 1st & 2nd chapter of Ecclesiastes.

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.
Here ends the reading.

PSALM: Psalm 49:1-11

We can never ransom ourselves or deliver to God the price of our life. (*Ps. 49:6*)

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell [|] in the world,
you of high degree and low, rich and [|] poor together.

² **My mouth shall [|] speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on [|] understanding.**

³ I will incline my ear [|] to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- [|] on the harp.

⁴ **Why should I be afraid in [|] evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my [|] heels surrounds me,**

⁵ the wickedness of those who put their trust [|] in their goods,
and boast of [|] their great riches?

⁶ **We can never ran- [|] som ourselves,
or deliver to God the price [|] of our life;**

⁷ for the ransom of our life [|] is so great,
that we should never have e- [|] nough to pay it,

⁸ **in order to live forev- [|] er and ever,
and never [|] see the grave.**

⁹ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- [|] pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come [|] after them.

¹⁰ **Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation
to [|] generation,
though they call the lands after [|] their own names.**

¹¹ Even though honored, they cannot [|] live forever;
they are like the [|] beasts that perish.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-11

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Colossians.

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all! Here ends the reading.

*VERSE (LBW p. 62)

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of the verse. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: 'This is Jesus Talking'

HYMN OF THE DAY *What Wondrous Love Is This* (LBW 385)

What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

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***CREED (LBW p. 64)**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***THE PRAYERS**

- P In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.
- P Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear (*especially*). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.**

***PEACE (LBW p. 66)**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.**
- P Peace be with you.
- P Let us share God's peace with everyone.

***OFFERING (LBW p. 66)**



C Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)**

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE (LBW p. 68)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS (LBW p. 69)**



***THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
C Amen.



COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat* (WOV 705)

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

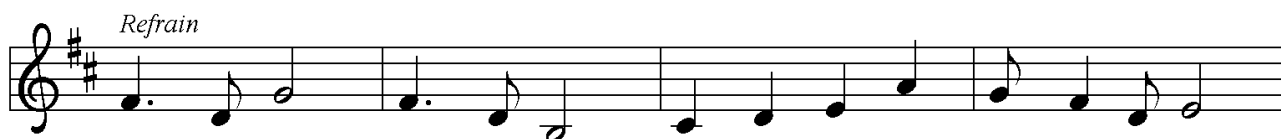
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COMMUNION HYMN *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* (WOV 706)

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth-ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34

Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young

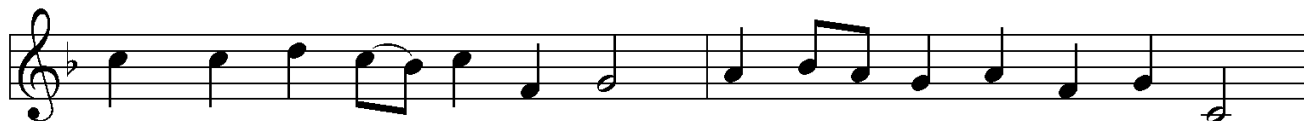
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***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p. 74)**

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***BENEDICTION (LBW p. 74)**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
C **Amen**

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

REFLECTION

1. 'Please share with me what you believe to be the purpose of a human life'
2. Has your life and your work been fulfilling?
3. How realistic is Luke 10:27 today?

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for coming!

~ Strength & Healing Concerns~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pam Rabe	Judy Livingston	Pat Janssen	Bill Juraco	Phyllis Fischer
Lyle & Mary Lou	Nannen	Judy Wyss	Virginia Mahan	Richard Sathoff
Ray Hammerich	Cyndi Benson	Carl Satterlee		Dave Kroepel
Linda Meyer	Grant Blaza	Doug Rabe		Alice Lopez
Derek Cruitt	Heather Hayden	Marsha Shafer		Greg Strickfaden
Marie Haage	Greg Sewell	Linda Hollenback		
Kendall Manwaring	Bobby Creamer			

And All Soldiers Serving Our Country

~ THANK YOU ~

Music:	Linda Garmon
Reader:	Carol Heisel
Greeter:	Council
Comm Assts:	Ed Shafer
	Colleen Juraco
	Gary Rosenbohm

First Year Confirmation Classes Announcement:

I hope to be able to offer first year Confirmation Classes beginning in September. So, if you are interested or know someone who is, please contact either myself or your Council President, Alice Diver.

I'm open to combining younger age students this year in order to keep students being the only student in their class. Please help to spread this announcement to people who you believe would be interested.

Classes will begin in September, but class materials need to be ordered well in advance.

Have any questions? Talk to Alice D. or call me anytime.

Pastor Ray (309) 229-4963

~ ST. PETER HAPPENINGS ~

Aug. 3rd – Communion Sunday – 9am Worship Service

Aug. 10th – Non-Communion Sunday –

9am Outdoor Worship Service

(Weather permitting)

Aug. 13th – 9am Sewing & Potluck

6pm Council Meeting

Caryn needs count for Ladie's Dinner Night

Aug. 16th – 8am Men's Breakfast here @ St. Peter

Aug. 17th – Communion Sunday – 9am Worship Service

Aug. 19th – Ladie's Night Out @ Gil's Supper Club – 5:30pm

Aug. 23rd – Northern Conference Summer Gathering

9am – 1pm @ First English Lutheran Church

Aug. 24th – Non-Communion Service – 9am Worship Service

Aug. 31st – Communion Service – 9am Worship Service

The WELCA “Project Promise” continues its next phase for the summer months by collecting donations for the School Kits in June, July, and August. Containers will be available in the Narthex to collect the following items:

- ❖ Notebooks – 70 sheets only
- ❖ Pencils (unsharpened) and ball point pens (no gel ink)
- ❖ Pencil Sharpeners
- ❖ Erasers (2 inches)
- ❖ Rulers (inches on one side and centimeters on the other)
- ❖ Scissors (blunt safety)
- ❖ Boxes of crayons (16 or 24 count only)

***If you would like for Sharon to do the shopping, just give her the money and she will get it done!!**

Ladies Night Out

Several years ago, the ladies went to dinner once a month, it was an enjoyable evening. We'd like to do that again. Here are the details of when and where for August:

Tuesday, August 19th @ 5:30pm.
Gil's Supper Club in Hanna City.

Contact Caryn Alonzo @ 309-678-7484, by Wednesday, August 13th if you can attend.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to help with the cost of mowing Union Todd Cemetery. I take pride in making Union Todd look nice. I have a soft heart for all those little children that have passed at such an early age.

May God Bless You,
Danny Vaughn

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

You have probably noticed in the messenger and bulletin that First English Lutheran Church on Forest Hill Avenue in Peoria is hosting a Gathering on Saturday, August 23rd that we've been invited to attend. Co-hosts for this even include Grace and Peace, Salen, St. Paul, and St. John's. The speaker sounds interesting, and the program runs from 9am to 1pm. It would be nice if we could get a bunch of us to attend this together. Registration deadline is Aug. 16th. They are also requesting an offering of personal hygiene items for men, women, and children such as:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Hair Spray
- Hair accessories (rubber bands, clips, scrunchies, hair ties, etc)
- Band aids
- Razors
- Toenail Clippers
- Nail Files
- Body Wash and Soap
- Deodorant and Feminine Pads

If interested, let me know after church or call me at 309-231-4666

Kathy Rosenbohm

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 3, 2025

LECTIONARY 18

The Challenge of Money

Jesus' parables about money continue to trouble his listeners to this day. In fact, they may seem even more challenging to today's Christians in North America, a culture so saturated with wealth and consumerism, than they were to our first-century counterparts. It can be easy to approach these parables by attempting to justify our behavior, to try to determine the exact point where desire becomes greed or where consumption becomes gluttony, often in an effort to retain what we already have. But this attitude transforms generosity and simplicity into a law rather than an act of true freedom initiated in the love of Jesus.

The parable of the rich fool reveals the absurdity of greed and its justification. Tomorrow is not promised, and the pathological accumulation of wealth and material goods seems silly, even cruel, in a world as unpredictable and challenging as ours. Freedom in Jesus releases us from the belief that we can secure our own future with wealth and possessions. It opens us to the radical generosity of God's neighborhood, where the security of our future lies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in the practice of self-emptying love for our neighbor.

It's fair to say that Jesus would make for a very challenging church treasurer. The fundamental economic posture of the gospel is one of redistribution and radical trust that, in community, God will provide everything we need. Parables like this one about the rich fool are meant to stretch and challenge our assumptions and actions. If the choices we make about money seem to come easily, that just may be an invitation to reflect on the grounds of our own economic practices. The self-emptying generosity Jesus invites us into will always feel risky, but we can take comfort in the assurance that God, who makes all things new, will care and provide for the common good and the flourishing of true community. Thanks be to God.

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