

Sunday, August 3rd 2025

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Susan Michael
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Dave Layland
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Faith in Christ Is Rich Toward God

To live for earthly things “*is vanity and a striving after wind,*” and work that is driven by such vanity “*is an unhappy business*” (Eccl. 1:13–14). The man who lives like that has nothing to show for “*all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun ... all his days are full of sorrow*” (Eccl. 2:22–23). So, too, your “*covetousness, which is idolatry*” (Col. 3:5), makes a god out of that which cannot give you life or happiness. For “*one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*” (Luke 12:15). But “*Christ who is your life*” (Col. 3:4), in giving you Himself, gives you all the wealth of heaven. Instead of striving to lay up treasures for yourself, be “*rich toward God*” in Him (Luke 12:21).

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Praise the Almighty”

LSB 797

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 49:7-8, 13-14a, 15

- P** Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
C **for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice.**
- P** This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;
yet after them people approve of their boasts.
C **Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
death shall be their shepherd.**
- P** But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me.
C ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

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

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in

them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “**Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?**” ¹⁵And he said to them, “**Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

LSB 704

Sermon

The Gospel of the Barn Builder

Luke 12:13-21

(stand)

Apostles’ Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



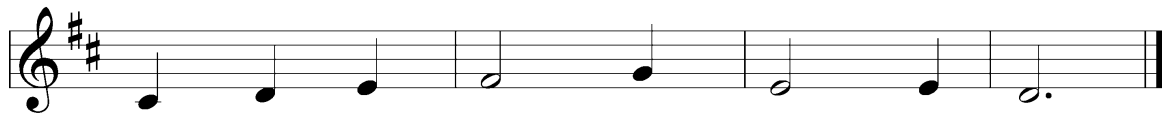
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymns

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB 611

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

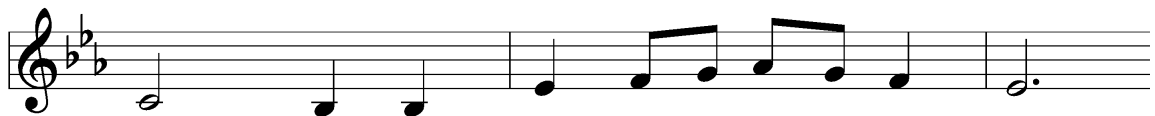
Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.



CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

The Creed (1st Article): I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

SERMON NOTES: Luke 12:13-21

The Gospel of the Barn Builder

1. Our _____ teaches us to believe that _____ is for our _____ only.
2. _____ plays a significant role in Jesus' _____, particularly as a _____ of the heart and one's values.
3. The rich man thinks that hoarding his abundant harvest will bring _____ and make his _____ happy; _____ thinks otherwise.
4. The person who gives into the temptation of _____ is trying to measure _____ by what he _____.
5. What we _____ with our _____ is a _____ response.
6. Stewardship is not just about _____ wisely, but _____ faithfully so that what we give today can bear fruit for _____.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for Drive Thru History as we explore the lives of the very first Christians in ***Acts to Revelation***.

Epiphany Sisters of the Light New Book Discussion: All ladies are invited to join us in reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Jesus invites us to choose “the better part”—a joyful life of intimacy with Him that flows naturally into loving service. We will meet at 6pm on Tuesday, August 26, to discuss the first 6 chapters. Bring a salad to share. Pick up a book at church and start reading!

Stars Needed! We need weekly worship volunteers to help set up before and disassemble (strike the set, so to speak) after on a rotating (at least once a month) schedule. Showtime on a designated Sunday would be 9am. The Epiphany Star Team (a reference to the star that led the Magi, those who “prepare the way” for worship) needs YOU! If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the entrance way.

Upcoming Voters Meeting: We will be having a regular voters meeting TODAY after the service. The meeting will include an update on our purchase of the property at 124 Three Oaks Lane.

Flash Zoom Study: Experience a glimpse back in time when a pre-flood tabloid news reporter interviews Noah about his unusual building project in the next one-hour, one-time FLASH STUDY on Zoom on Monday, August 11, at 6pm, *The Noah Interview*. Join us for a 21-minute drama highlighting themes of apologetics, biblical authority, and the Gospel in an entertaining look at the Ark's construction, the Flood, and Noah's faith. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-Noah

New Thursday 6pm Zoom video study, *Help Is Here*, begins on Thursday, August 14. In this 5-session Max Lucado study we'll learn more about the "helper" we know as the Holy Spirit. Join us! Register: bit.ly/ELC-Help

Epiphany Lutheran Church QR Code T-shirts: If you would like to have one (white, blue, or black), please use the order forms in the entry area. (The QR code goes to epiphanybastrop.info/at-a-glance.)

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: [@KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio).

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. Our *culture* teaches us to believe that *saving* is for our *benefit* only.
2. *Money* plays a significant role in Jesus' *teaching*, particularly as a *mirror* of the heart and one's values.
3. The rich man thinks that hoarding his abundant harvest will bring *security* and make his *soul* happy; *God* thinks otherwise.
4. The person who gives into the temptation of *greed* is trying to measure *life* by what he *has*.
5. What we *do* with our *gifts* is a *faith* response.
6. Stewardship is not just about *saving* wisely, but *giving* faithfully so that what we give today can bear fruit for *eternity*.

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Steven and Martha Mahlburg and their 5 children, Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, and Duncan – missionaries in Sri Lanka
- John Lara – Battling cancer
- Elvia Lara – Thanksgiving for being free of cancer
- The Gordon Family – Mother and two daughters baptized last week

The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 216 - Mon 8/4: Isaiah 31-35
- Day 217 - Tue 8/5: Isaiah 36-39
- Day 218 - Wed 8/6: Isaiah 40-44
- Day 219 - Thu 8/7: Isaiah 45-48
- Day 220 - Fri 8/8: Isaiah 49-53
- Day 221 - Sat 8/9: Isaiah 54-58
- Day 222 - Sun 8/10: Isaiah 59-63



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, August 3rd

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
- Immediately following the service – Voters Meeting

Tuesday, August 5th

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

Sunday, August 10th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion



Living as God's Stewards

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has defined stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family—the church—in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” Contrary to common misconception, stewardship isn’t merely about giving money to the church. Too often we associate “stewardship” with a fundraising strategy or a seasonal emphasis on giving. It’s a way of life—rooted in the Gospel, shaped by faith, and expressed in every area of our daily living.

Stewardship begins with the understanding that God is the Creator and Owner of all things, and that we are His stewards—managers entrusted with time, talents, resources, and relationships to use for His purposes.

Psalm 24:1 proclaims, *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”* From this truth flows the foundation of stewardship: we own nothing; we manage everything. God gives us daily bread—not just food, but everything we need to support this body and life. As Luther writes in the *Small Catechism*, daily bread includes “food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers... good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.” All these are gifts of grace, not earned entitlements.

Martin Luther put it this way: *“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none; a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”* (*The Freedom of a Christian*, 1520). In Christ, we are free—free from guilt, free from death, free from the pressure to earn God’s favor. Yet in that freedom, we are called to serve others with joyful hearts, recognizing that what we have is not ours to hoard, but God’s to be shared.

Jesus underscores this with a sobering parable in today’s Gospel reading from Luke 12: A rich man’s land produces so abundantly that he plans to tear down his barns and build bigger ones to store all his goods. Then he tells himself, *“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”* But God

says, *“Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”* The issue is not the man’s wealth, but his attitude—he trusted in his possessions for security and ignored his responsibility toward God and others. Jesus concludes, *“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”*

Stewardship is not about building bigger barns. It’s about building the kingdom—loving God, serving our neighbor, and using what we’ve been given with eternal priorities in view. As Jesus says later in that same chapter, *“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Luke 12:32–34).

Ultimately, stewardship is a Gospel response, a confession of faith. We give, serve, and live generously not to gain God’s love but because we already have it in full through Christ. Our stewardship flows from the cross, where the greatest gift was given. Jesus poured out His life to redeem us—how could we not offer our whole lives in return?