

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church  
Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17, 2017  
“Joyful Generosity—The Earth Is the Lord’s”**

*A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.*

*Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won’t miss any of the sermon.*

*In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning’s service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department.*

*Before Service Prayer:* Father, I call what I have my “possessions” only because I possess them and don’t really own them. I know that You made everything and thus own everyone and everything. The day will come when I will need to give an accounting to You concerning what I did with the much You have entrusted me. Grant me the grace to always be eager to use what You have entrusted to me in a way that brings glory and honor to You, a way that reflects the priorities that You have set for my life and in a way that benefits those around me. To this end, use Your law today to beat back my greedy sinful nature and grant that by Your Spirit’s working, I may find joy in being Your faithful steward. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Today’s Service:* “Service of the Word” NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

*Today’s Theme:* The Earth Is the Lord’s

*Pastor’s Welcome*

*Opening Hymn:* CW 480 “Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth”

*Invocation*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, asking for forgiveness in Jesus' name.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

**People: we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You and one another. We cling to the things of this world for meaning. We search for security in things that are here today and gone tomorrow. We crave things that are physical and ignore the eternal, as well as the needs of those around us. We foolishly regard what we possess as something we own instead of acknowledging Your ownership of everyone and everything. O God, for Jesus' sake, forgive us for our failures and faithlessness. Renew and restore us by the power of Your Spirit, leading us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.**

Pastor: People of God, we come into this world with nothing, and we leave it in the same way. Everything we have in this life is a gift from God, especially God's forgiveness and acceptance which brings us here today. At the command of Christ and through the power of His cross, I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for Your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the richness of Your grace, may be faithful stewards of all Your good gifts; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:11-18 (*Don't forget the Lord your God!*)

<sup>11</sup> Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees that I am giving you this day.<sup>12</sup> Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,<sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,<sup>14</sup> then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.<sup>15</sup> He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.<sup>16</sup> He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.<sup>17</sup> You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."<sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today. (NIV 2011)



*The Second Lesson: Colossians 1:15-23 (Jesus, the creator and owner of all things is generous in this: He made it possible for you to be reconciled to God.)*

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (NIV 2011)

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Alleluia. (James 1:17)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is the chorus: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The second staff is the first line of the verse: 'These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that'. The third staff is the second line of the verse: 'Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.'. The fourth staff is the final chorus: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

*Stand*

*The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30 (Instead of attacking the Master and accusing Him of wrongdoing, use what He has entrusted to you to the best of your ability.)*

<sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

<sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (NIV 2011)

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Hymn of the Day:* CW 481 “O God, Your Hands the Heavens Made”

*The Sermon Text:* **Psalm 24:1-6**

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

<sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

*Confession of Faith*

P: THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?*

**C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that He gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because He is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

The Offering

The Offertory

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



The Closing Hymn: CW 485 “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

*Cleaning this Week: Bauer / James*

**Today— Worship Service at 9:30 AM**  
**Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM**  
**Baby Shower for Evie Henkel at Noon**  
**Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM**

**Tuesday—**Outreach Committee at 7:00 PM

**Wednesday—**Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM  
**WLCFS Parenting Seminar at 7:00 PM**

**Next Sunday—**Communion Service at 9:30 AM  
**Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM**  
**Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM**

Adult Bible class is covering a video series entitled "Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture." Today we will cover less two entitled "God's Undeserved Gift: Justification by Grace." Bible class meets in the café at 10:45 AM.

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

On Sunday, August 27, Pastor Bauer received notice that he has received the call to be pastor at First Ev. Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, WI. Members of New Life should feel free to share with Pastor Bauer their thoughts on the call. Pastor anticipates having a decision by next Sunday.

The Branch Connection is hosting a baby shower for Evelyn Henkel TODAY at Noon after Sunday School and Bible Class. Evie is registered at Amazon.com. Please bring a salad or side—sandwiches, punch and cake will be provided. All ladies and young girls of New Life are invited!

Confirmation Class begins TONIGHT, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Our Faithfulness to God's Word Last Sunday—63

## **Fall WLCFS Educational Presentations— New Life Fall Parenting Series**

New Life will once again host parenting seminars presented by counselors from WLCFS. Each of the three seminars will begin at 7:00 PM. There is no cost or obligation to attend. Here's a look at the upcoming topic for September:



### **Shaping Responsible Behavior—**

**Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 PM**

Presented by: Sarah Reik, MA, LPC

Description: In our current culture of blame-shifting and irresponsibility, it is especially important for parents to learn ways to shape responsible behavior in their children. This presentation will look at the benefits of responsible behavior, as well as specific examples and suggestions for parents to use as they shape responsibility through tasks, discipline, and service.

The Earth  
is the  
Lord's  
& everything  
in it.

psalm 24:1

