

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

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

*Pastor Andrew Bauer
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**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2016**

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: Dear God, if only we were as diligent to pray, at least with a longing in the heart, as You are in coaxing, bidding, commanding, assuring, and constraining us to pray. Unfortunately, we are too lazy and ungrateful! Forgive us, dear Lord, and strengthen our faith. Since I cannot pay the penalty, and my name has no prestige, let satisfaction be made in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Luther's Prayers)

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: The believer has a right relationship with worldly wealth. Faithful service to the Master is marked by faithful use of the Master's possessions.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 484 “**Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly**”

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.

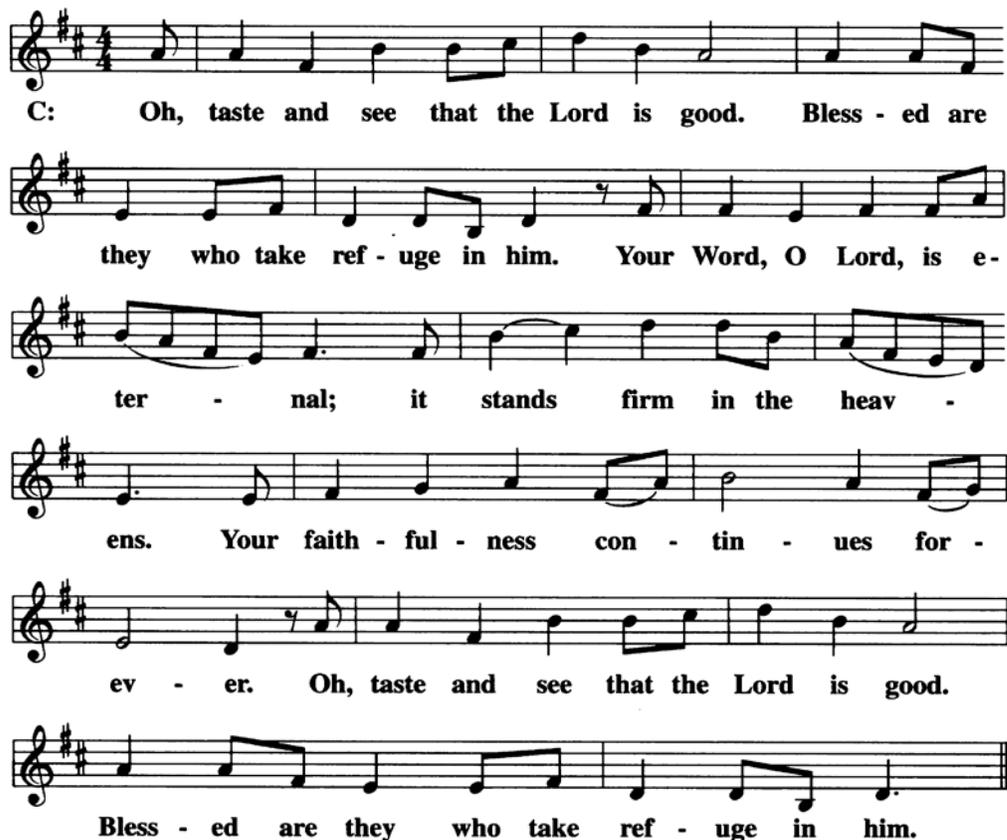
Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

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. 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.

Lord God, You freely give to us what we need for body and life because You are our kind and merciful Father in heaven. Grant that we may regard all we have as a gift from You, understand that we are responsible to You for how we use what You have given and willingly and generously use what we have to help the poor and also win friends for heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The First Lesson: AMOS 8:4-7 (The poor and needy are neglected and trampled by those itching to make money on their misfortune. The Lord does not condemn those who follow wise business practices to honestly make the most of their situation. Rather, He condemns dishonesty in business dealings, specifically as a sign of the self-serving, luxury loving attitude that rules the heart of the greedy. The LORD will not forget what they have done. He will bring them to justice on the Day of Judgment.)

⁴Hear this, you who trample the needy
and do away with the poor of the land,

⁵saying,

“When will the New Moon be over
that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended
that we may market wheat?”—

skimping on the measure,
boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales,

⁶buying the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

⁷The LORD has sworn by Himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done. (NIV 2011)

Psalm of the Day: (A sung version of a portion of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 6:25-44) (CWS 762)

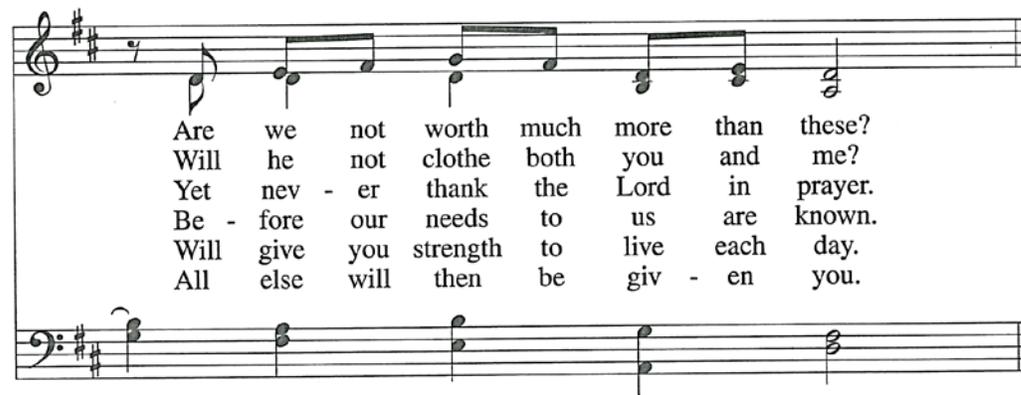
1 Con - si - der how the birds a - bove
2 The li - lies grow; they do not toil.
3 Set not your heart on food or drink,
4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed,
5 Be not a - fraid to suf - fer loss,
6 Seek first God’s reign, his bound - less grace,



Feed day by day with care - free ease—
How fair is their fra - gil - i - ty—
Nor be weighed down by world - ly care;
For life is more than what we own.
Of all the things for which you pray;
His ho - ly name in all you do:



Does God not keep them in his love?
If God clothes these, which quick - ly spoil,
A - bout such things the god - less think,
Our Fa - ther knows our ev - 'ry need
For he who faced for you the cross
Christ first and last in ev - 'ry place;



Are we not worth much more than these?
Will he not clothe both you and me?
Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.
Be - fore our needs to us are known.
Will give you strength to live each day.
All else will then be giv - en you.

The Second Lesson: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16 (Here is managerial balance for the life of faith: godliness with contentment. Love of money leads to a wandering from the faith and eternal destruction. Love for Christ results in fighting “the good fight” in this world in the sure hope of serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords now and into eternity.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen. (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

(Sung by Sunday School & Preschool kids and the Pastor)

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: LUKE 16:1-13 (The Parable of the Shrewd Manager has caused some consternation among New Testament believers. Was the manager dishonest or was he merely taking advantage of his master’s manipulation of the law of Moses? If he was dishonest, how can the Lord hold up sin as an example for faithful living? Do not miss the point. This is a “fish or cut bait” lesson being taught by the Great Teacher. Love for money or love for God are the options. Each brings with it eternal results. Those who love money will not be trusted with greater treasure. Those who love the Lord and faithfully use His possessions for kingdom work will be trusted with the eternal treasure of heaven.)

¹ Jesus told His disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

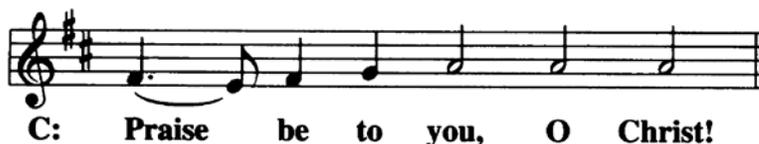
“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (NIV 2011)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Hymn of the Day: CW 421 “All Depends on Our Possessing”

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Children's Sermon

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: CWS 761 "Christ is With Me"

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Bauer / James

Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Confirmation Class from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Tuesday—Outreach Committee at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—Men's Bible Class at Noon
WLCFS Seminar
Dinner at 6:15 PM
Presentation from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Thursday—GREEN TEAM from 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Next Sunday—Communion Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Confirmation Class from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

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.

A sign-up sheet has been posted for those who would like to reserve a spot on a charter bus for the Reformation Rally on October 30, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Chicago. The bus will leave the church parking lot at approximately 2 PM on that day. The service is at 4:00 PM and the meal is at 5:30 PM. There will be five additional buses, besides the one stopping at New Life, that will be converging on St. Andrew. At the present time, bus passengers alone will comprise around 300 people at the rally.

Green Teams begins this Thursday at 6:30 PM. This year's theme is "Living Green." The kids will focus on what it means to live a "green" life, one that respects and nurtures the health and human body God has given. Green Team is for kids who are K-8th grade.

The new flagpole and flag on the church property is a gift from Roger and Joyce Nicklaus in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary. This past Friday Roger raised the flag for the first time as the four-year-old preschoolers said the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you to Roger and Joyce, and congratulations!

Friends of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – On Saturday, Oct. 1, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Auxiliary will host *Friends of the Seminary Day*. This annual event provides WELS members an opportunity to visit the beautiful seminary campus and learn more about the seminary’s work. The day begins with fellowship and breakfast snacks at 8:00 a.m. Worship follows at 9:00 a.m. Activities include presentations by students and faculty members, guided tours of the campus, and a noon meal. A sign-up sheet has been posted for those who would like to attend. A fifteen passenger van will be reserved to take people to and from the Seminary for the morning activities.



Our Faithfulness to God’s Word Last Sunday—68