



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

August 3, 2025
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

New socks are being collected for the Downtown Mission on an on-going basis. Bring them to a Sunday service or call the office to arrange a drop-off.

Coming Up

PrideFest takes place August 8-10 and Trinity will be there. Trinity members will be walking in the August 10 parade and manning a table welcoming people and showing them all Trinity that has to offer as an affirming community. We're looking for walkers and people to represent the congregation at the table. Contact the church office if you'd like to help out.

Also Happening

August 8 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Dot, Jean, Ken, Randy, Roger, Rose, Jeff

Introduction to the day

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.

Hymns

ACS # 993 God is here today

ELW # 793 Be thou my vision

ELW # 650 In Christ there is no east or west

ELW # 678 God, whose giving knows no ending

Prayer of the day

Benevolent God,
you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;
2:18-23

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

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I 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, ¹⁹and 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. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because 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. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For 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.

Psalm: 49:1-12

¹Hear this, ¹all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell ¹in the world,

² **you of high de- | gree and low,
rich and | poor together.**

³ My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate
on | understanding.

⁴ **I will incline my ear | to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- | on
the harp.**

⁵ Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
when the wickedness of those at
my | heels surrounds me,

⁶ **the wickedness of those who put
their trust in | their own prowess,
and boast of | their great riches?**

⁷ One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for
an- | other's life;

⁸ **for the ransom of a life | is so great
that there would never be
e- | nough to pay it,**

⁹ in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.

¹⁰ **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.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes
forever, their dwelling places from
generation to | generation,

though they had named lands
af- | ter themselves.

¹² **Even though honored, they
cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that
perish.**

Second reading: Colossians 3:1-11

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!



Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

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.”

Sermon

Tear down the barns

I read last week that the world’s richest man is on pace to become the world’s first trillionaire in about a year and a half.

A man who has more than 650 billion dollars will have a million million dollars ... that’s a one followed by 12

zeroes ... and that’s after boycotts and lost government contracts during the past few months.

If this person were to spend a million dollars a day ... it would take him more than 2,700 years to spend it all.

As a trillionaire ... this one person will control wealth that will be more than double Canada’s entire federal budget.

Of course, it’s not all in cash ... a good portion of the wealth is the companies and corporations he controls. Those companies and institutions are the financial barns where the man stores his abundance ... some would say his over-abundance.

Jesus would ask the man “what’s the point?”

At the end of one’s life, all that wealth and control become worthless.

Some faith communities follow a gospel that proclaims that God wants us to be prosperous and if you are faithful enough ... if you pray hard and long enough ... if you give abundantly to the church ... then God will reward you with wealth ... health and happiness.

The Prosperity Gospel places a person’s desires before God’s desires for humanity.

Denominations that follow such a gospel make the collection of more and more possessions and wealth the mark of a faithful life.

Those who proclaim such a gospel are telling people that God wants us to have bigger barns.

This gospel places the emphasis of life on the pronoun “I.”

The rich man in Jesus' parable this morning also uses the pronoun ... a lot.

Luke shares that Jesus is teaching in the middle of a large crowd when a man shouts to him about a matter of inheritance.

The man wants Jesus to convince his brother to share an inheritance with him.

Jesus defers and offers the crowd the parable about the rich man.

The rich man was blessed with land that produced abundant harvests ... so much so, that he had to keep tearing down and building larger and larger barns to store the crops and his goods.

He plans to live off the contents of the barn for years to come as he eats, drinks and relaxes in comfort during his retirement.

On the surface, this doesn't sound like bad planning. This what we have all been taught ... prepare for a comfortable retirement ... get an adviser to make sure you invest wisely ... that you have enough money to travel ... or to relax and live well.

The man in Jesus' story has worked hard ... he has things figured out ... he made the right decisions along the way and saved for later.

The rich man's plan is a good plan, ... EXCEPT ... God has a different one for him.

God tells him that his life will end that night and that all his plans and stored up abundance was for nothing. Someone else will benefit from the goods in those barns.

God calls the man a "fool" for placing such an importance on his abundance and keeping it himself. Despite the abundance filling his barns, his life has been spiritually empty.

More than once, Jesus offers a lesson on the dangers of wealth.

The rich man's concerns about wealth and accumulating more are distractions and his concerns over future financial gains are misplaced. Money doesn't matter when you reach the end of life. Jesus makes it clear that true security comes from God.

Jesus doesn't argue against retirement planning ... making sure that a person has what they need for their well-being. But trust in God needs to be present, as well.

Jesus' lesson is not that wealth is necessarily a bad thing ... what you do with the wealth ... with the abundance you enjoy is what is important. Abundance shouldn't be solely for the sake of gaining more abundance and greater status.

Our hearts are to be oriented differently.

Jesus' point is about how we invest our lives ... our gifts ... our abundance. Is it held to ourselves or is it shared with our neighbours ... through service to others ... is it shared with the poor? Are we invested in God's mission to bless and redeem the world?

Or are we just building barns for ourselves?

Some churches, hold on to their abundance ... building bigger and bigger

barns holding their growing blessings to themselves.

This parable then invites listeners to consider not just if they have built barns ... but also if the church has built barns itself?

Professor Stephen Farris of the Vancouver School of Theology once wrote:

“When a church is a sign of the kingdom, it will build not barns, but a community with a different orientation than acquisition. It will be a community with a kingdom orientation.”

“... it will build not barns, but a community.”

The rich man in this parable doesn't share his abundance for the benefit of the community ... there is no mention of him feeding the poor or the widows. He neither mentions God nor community when he talks about the abundance of his lands or of his future.

“I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”

There are no plans for anyone else except himself. There is no room for anyone else or for God in those barns.

To the gospel writer, Jesus invites us to trust, not in what we can build or save, but in the God who sees and provides.

To Luke, wealth is a barrier to following God because it makes us focus on earthly treasures rather than on divine ones.

The challenge to live a life of faith is that we are called to continually reflect

on our lifestyle and financial choices as we participate in caring communities ... serving others ... providing for people in great need and advocating and challenging the systems of the world that ignore or marginalize the poor while applauding those who gather an abundance unto themselves.

We are to re-examine our lives to ensure they are oriented toward God and not toward wealth and the risks it brings to life when it becomes one's focus. The greatest risk is the direction of love toward possessions and away from relationships with God and others.

The tighter we hold to God; the more we must ease our grip on the things that the world tells us matter most ... including wealth for wealth's sake.

The man in the crowd who made the request of Jesus has his mind set upon the wrong things. Sometimes ... so do we.

The man is concerned about possessions and money rather than on the loss of a family member or on the effect his demand will have on family relationships.

Wealth and property can drive a wedge between family members as they battle for their share or become jealous over another's possessions and money. The drive for wealth and property make true peace impossible to embrace.

When we turn our focus toward the divine ... our old life and its priorities are stripped away.

When we focus our life on our call to feed ... comfort ... and heal, then we are

in a right relationship ...and we are not only rich toward God ... but we share the abundant richness of that love with others.

... then a barn becomes unnecessary.

So, may we look at the barns we have built in our lives ... let's see what is stored within them ... and ensure that the doors are open wide for others to share in that abundant harvest of love.

AMEN

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

Blessing

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

AMEN

More Announcements

Back to Church Sunday. Summer has barely started and we're already thinking about the fall. Our Back-to-Church Service is scheduled for September 7. Last year, we offered a Dr. Seuss-themed service. This time? Come and see. Invite family and friends to the service and connect or re-connect them to life at Trinity.

In response to requests from members, Trinity accepts offerings via eTransfer. You must set up the eTransfer information in your bank account. The email address to be used is trinitywlutheran@gmail.com. In the "comment" section, please indicate: "Trinity - General Offering" And remember to put your name and address so we can provide a tax receipt.



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____ .00) per month
Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.