



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

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.

Prelude:

Credo

Josef Haydn

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***Opening Hymn:**

Brightest and Best of the Stars

ELW 303

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

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.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✙ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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**

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

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

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.

R: A reading from Ecclesiastes, the first and second chapters.

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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
² **you of high degree 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 upon 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 redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
⁹ in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.
¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid 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 after
themselves.
¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

Second Reading:**Colossians 3:1-11**

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.

R: A reading from Colossians, the third chapter.

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!

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

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

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.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: 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.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *All Depends on Our Possessing* **ELW 589**

***Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

R: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

R: 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.

R: 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.

R: 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.

R: Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. 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.

R: 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.

R: 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.

R: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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.

*Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

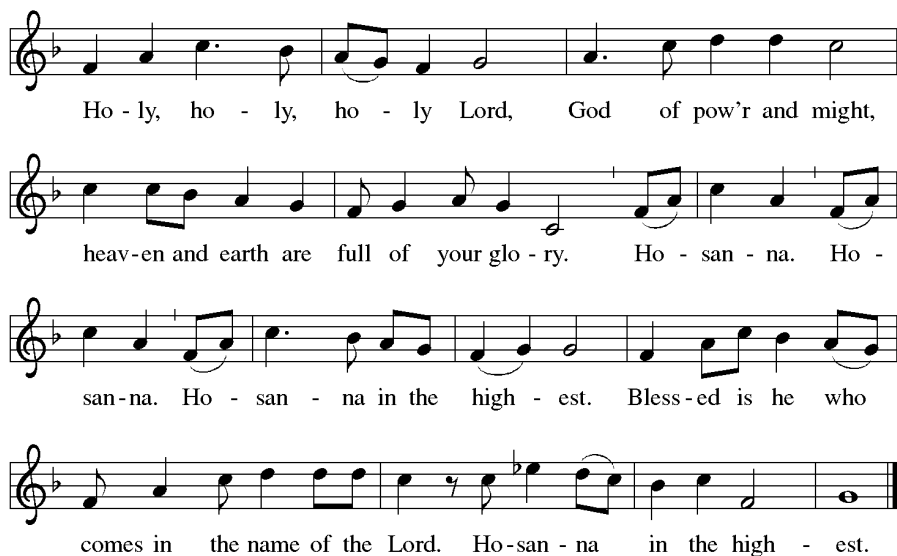
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us

the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Thanksgiving at the Table**

- P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
- P: 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.
- P: 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.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Come, eat and rejoice.

Lamb of God

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The word "grant" is underlined in the original image.

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.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 807 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

ELW 773 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

ELW 783 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

***Post Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:**

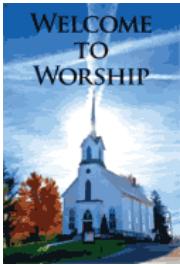
To God on High

Felix Mendelssohn

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GOOD MORNING, AND WELCOME! God has invited us here; we are at home in his presence. Let us worship.

PLEASE CONSIDER TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL for grades Pre-K - Kindergarten. After 22 years, Peggy Koch is retiring. Thank you.

FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT – Hopefest in downtown Willard, Ohio. Sunday, August 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. featuring Cochren & Co. and Caleb and John.

GAMES – GAMES – GAMES!

Tuesday, September 9th – 7:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite game and come to play.

We will have a great time! Don't miss out on our night of fun!!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Sign up today on the sheet on the women's bulletin board!

We will have our September General Meeting at

6:30 p.m. in the lounge and then LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!



SOUPER SOUP COOKOFF AND SILENT AUCTION:

WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 5 pm

WHERE: Faith Fellowship Hall

COST: \$10.00 for adults and
\$5.00 for kids 10 and under
Tickets sold at door only that evening.

UP TO 12 ENTRANTS: Sign-up between July 27th and September 14th.
We request that you be present to win.

RESTRICTIONS: **MUST NOT USE PEPPERS IN SOUP**

– due to some who are allergic to them.

SOUP HERE BY: 4:00 P.M. in a crock pot with no names or identifying marks on it.

SERVING: Women's Board Members will serve Soup in Styrofoam bowls with entrant's number on it.

TO ATTEND, EAT AND VOTE: Sign up by Sunday, September 28th – not required – simply to give us an idea of how many to expect.

VOTING: Each person attending will be given 1 ticket to write their number one choice on and drop into a box.
Only one ticket will be issued per person.

PROVIDED: Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments, Crackers, Tableservice
Drinks: Lemonade, Iced Tea (Sweetened & Unsweetened), Hawaiian Punch, Water, Ice

PROCEEDS: To Flag City Honor Flight (For veterans to view monuments in Washington, D.C.) Free to Veterans, 1 Guardian can fly with them at a cost of \$400. They do 4 flights per year at a cost of \$150,000 per flight to take 80 Vets and their Guardians.

WANTED: Salads and Desserts to add to meal.
Sign-up sheet will be out closer to the time.

PRIZE: \$50.00 Visa Gift Card, Framed Certificate and Apron to sign to be displayed at the church AND "All year bragging rights"

SILENT AUCTION: **Wanted** – Groups or members to help donate Baskets/Items, Craft items, or Services you could provide someone to be included in auction. Sign up between July 27th – Sept. 28th

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN WITH IT!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW SEASON OF MUSICAL WORSHIP!



Faith's Senior Choir, directed by Darla Brown, will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 3rd!** Rehearsals run from **7:30-8:30 p.m.** in the **Choir room** which is down the hall on the right. Faith's Senior Choir leads in the hymn singing and provides an anthem for each 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, starting September 7th through May. The choir may participate in additional services during the Advent and/or Lenten seasons. New singers are always welcome to join!



Faith's Handbell Choir invites all persons wishing to praise our God and Savior with the beautiful sounds of handbells. Prior musical experience is helpful but not necessary to share your interest in heavy (and light) metal music with this fun and friendly group. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 3rd**, in the **Fellowship Hall** and will run from **6:30-7:20**

p.m. This choir usually performs one anthem each month from Sept./Oct. through May.



Faith's Praise Choir, directed by Becky Fox, will also rehearse on Wednesdays, from **7:30-8:00 p.m.** and will meet in the **Sunday School Gathering** room. This

joyful group of singers presents a contemporary anthem periodically for the **8:00 a.m.** Sunday worship service, starting in September and running through May. New singers are always welcome to join!

You may contact Darla at 419.680.6717 or Becky at 419.618.6948 if you have any questions and would like more information. We hope to see you soon...

"as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20 (NRSV)

THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to extend a round of applause to the members of this congregation for its support in donating various items needed by the Liberty Center located in Fremont. Your generosity has been overwhelming and is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Yvonne Vogel for getting the ball rolling on this project and helping Noelle to deliver the items to the center.

Our committee would like to thank Pastor Tim for taking the time to locate and purchase a grill/griddle for the Luther Home of Mercy Center here in Hessville. The center is hoping to do some outdoor grilling this summer. A big thank you to Jim Smith and Dave Ring for helping to assemble the grill this past Monday morning after our men's group meeting. It's amazing what this congregation does for our community. You are the greatest.

NWOS WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2025 GATHERING will be Sept. 26-27 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 315 College Drive, Bowling Green, Ohio. Friday from 1:00-7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9-3 p.m. Join us for Bible Study, Break-out Sessions, Worship Service, Friday night Program, Business Meeting, Fun, Food and Fellowship and a Silent Auction. Theme is: BE STILL, which encompasses both rest and listening. The Bible Studies for the weekend will be based on these. Break-out Sessions on Contemplative Prayer, Bible Journaling and Party Planning. Hotel accommodations are at the Holiday Inn, Bowling Green. Registration deadline for hotel rooms is August 19th. Deadline for Gathering only registration is September 12th. For a registration form, please inquire in the church office. Bring your Bible, a Reusable water bottle and Dress Casual.

IT'S NEVER EASY OR CONVENIENT to give the time and attention to our marriages that they need, but a Marriage Encounter Weekend provides a concentrated and safe environment to do exactly that. God commands us to love, which means love is not simply a feeling but an action. Husband and wives, rediscover your hearts, grow your commitment, don't risk letting your marriage relationship simply drift along. Commit a weekend to growing your marriage November 7-9 at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Streetsboro OH. Go to GodLovesMarriage.org for more information about the benefits, costs, and details, and then get it on your calendar because *drifting* will never get your marriage to where you want it to be.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

9:00 a.m.

Greeter: Randy & Darla Brown

Lector: Karly Paeth

Acolyte: Karly Paeth

Communion: Cheryl Paeth & Kim Smith

Counters: Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Anna & Julia Norris

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

9:00 a.m.

Greeter: Paul Antesberger & Cindy Zorn

Lector: Darla Brown

Acolyte: Evan McBride

Communion: Paul Antesberger & Randy Brown

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Anne Gerner

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Anna & Julia Norris

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Paul Antesberger, Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner. Laura Walby.

The Family of: Jim Schwartz

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Aug. 3 to Aug. 10

Sunday

Aug. 3-----9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 10 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

Monday

Aug. 4-----8 a.m. Prayer and Conversation @ Raevia's
 10 a.m. Valley View Worship & Holy Communion
 7 p.m. FLCW Board Meeting

Tuesday

Aug. 5-----7 p.m. Christian Worship Committee

Wednesday

Aug. 6-----

Thursday

Aug. 7-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care
 6-8 p.m. Hall Reserved – 4-H – Jackie Seibert

Friday

Aug. 8-----

Saturday

Aug. 9-----4:30 p.m. Christ Care Potluck at Catawba State Park

Sunday

Aug. 10-----9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 10 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 108 – OFFERING: \$3,184.52

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 3, 2025
8th Sunday after Pentecost

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.