



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 31, 2022

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.

Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

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.**

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.

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

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied 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 human beings 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 those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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.

¹So if 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 is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: **LUKE 12:13-21**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

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.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And 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." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then 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. 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, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

Amen.

Benediction and Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp’s Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Michael A. Crowther
Margaret Elser
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Ella Shirk
Leona Showalter

Alverta Showalter
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer

Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Ed Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Clair Sweigart
Joan Long
Jan Lorah
Nancy Leffler
Charles Hoppman
David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Cindy Hornberger Stahl

Katie Houck
Sue Schultz
Hunter Leisey
Jean Wolf
John Bergman
John Frantz
Beaty & Edgar Gress
Margaret Elser
Melissa Swift (daughter of Bea & Edgar Gress)
Larry Knauer
Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2022.

FOOD BANK - Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is a shortage of canned fruits and vegetables, all starches, snacks, cereal, soups, jelly and pasta sauces. Thank you for helping as you are able.



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. Time to clean out your closets! The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com



LAP ROBES – Thank you to those who are knitting and/or crocheting lap robes for the ongoing need of the VA Hospital. Please be aware that the church has received a donation of yarn that is available for your use. Please contact Brenda in the office.

US FLAGS – When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you.

UKRAINIAN RELIEF -Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting Ukraine through the Lutheran World Federation. Donations are used for items such as bedding, hygiene items, food and pastoral care through a group of local Eastern Europe Lutheran churches. You may support this effort by writing a check to Swamp Lutheran with the memo marked Ukraine. We have a Disaster offering plate in Narthex. The church will then send one check to Lutheran Disaster who in turn will donate 100% of the donation to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS. The Thrivent “Action Teams” program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran’s activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: lgockley2@gmail.com or call 717-203-8551.

LWR SCHOOL KITS— Last year, Swamp assembled and delivered 108 backpacks to the LWR pick-up site. Thank you to all who donated supplies and helped us reach this goal!

We are presently accepting donations of items for this year’s Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project through the end of September. Please help make this year’s project a success. *Donations may be given to Jane Leshner, Denise Null and Connie Taylor.* Questions to Debbie Carvell 717-336-5638.

Items most needed: **notebooks, scissors, crayons, and pens.**

Items not needed: No backpacks (thanks to Jane!) No pencils thanks to a generous donor.

We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that doesn’t adhere to these guidelines. Each backpack will contain:

- **70-80** sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8” x 10 ½” – 4 per backpack
- 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side – 1 per backpack
- Pencil sharpeners – 1 per backpack
- **Blunt** scissors (safety scissors). (They must say this on the packaging) – 1 per backpack
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers – 5 per backpack (*We have enough*)
- Black or blue ink pens – 5 per backpack
- Packs of 16 or 24 crayons – 1 pack per backpack
- 2 ½” erasers – 1 per backpack

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” We’re looking for new ideas and opportunities for a church-wide day of service! Is there a service project or organization that you have connections to or feel passionate about? Is the work appropriate for all ages, or at least appropriate for youth grades 6-12 and adults? If so, please contact Pastor Scott at pastor@swamplutheran.org or Hailey Ranck at herratio3@gmail.com with any ideas or questions. Our greatest commandment is to love, so we look forward to coming together as a congregation to actively love our neighbors and

live out God's grace through personal acts of service! If interested, for more information and examples, please visit www.elca.org/dayofservice

This Week in the Parish (August 1 – August 7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, August 1 Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 2:1-17; Colossians 3:18—4:1
Tuesday, August 2 Psalm 127; Psalm 60; Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:8; Colossians 4:2-6
Wednesday, August 3 Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14; Luke 12:22-31
Thursday, August 4 Psalm 127; Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14; Luke 12:22-31
Friday, August 5 Psalm 33:12-22; Ecclesiastes 6:1-6; Acts 7:1-8
Saturday, August 6 Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 11:27-32; Matthew 6:19-24

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, August 7 Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

John Frantz, Sexton – 717-606-8994

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30AM

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 31, 2022
LECTIONARY 18

The Richness of Life

Many people in the United States have such an abundance of possessions that they don't even notice it. It feels normal to have things in excess. For others in the same culture, paying rent or the mortgage and having enough to buy food is a struggle. Scarcity is a daily reality.

Someone in the crowd asked Jesus, "Tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me" (Luke 12:13). It feels urgent. Is he being impatient? Is his brother refusing to give him a fair share of the estate? Is he being greedy? Is he desperate because he is unable to pay his debts or care for his children?

We don't know who is living in abundance of possessions and who is living in scarcity in this story. Whether we are rich or poor, greedy or needy, we can fall into the trap of thinking that an abundance of possessions is what life must be about. Having enough to live and be safe is important for everyone. But having as much as possible while others go without is outside of God's good intentions for human community.

Jesus points beyond abundance of possessions to finding the key to life in an abundance of something else: being "rich toward God" (v. 21). What could this mean? First, it means knowing that God provides abundantly for us and for all, so we live with gratitude to God for all we have. Second, it means knowing our only true security is in God's love and grace, which we always have. Third, it means responding to the God of abundance with the same generosity toward others. Being rich toward God means being generous toward our neighbors.

Why is this the key to life, and not abundance of possessions? Because we are created to live in relationship with God and each other. And in living generously toward each other we participate in the goodness of God. That is the richness of life.

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Reinholds, PA 17569