

ILCW Year-C Lessons for the  Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament

**Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26 NIV** 1:2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." ... 2:18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. 20 So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. 21 For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. 22 What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? 23 All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless. 24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, 25 for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? 26 To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Epistle

**Colossians 3:1-11** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

**Luke 12:13-21** Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost-C  "Treasures for Heaven"  
August 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 † 9:30am



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 12:13-21

*The rich fool plans to build a bigger barn, not realizing that he will die tonight.*

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library,  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=6079>



# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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PHONE (863) 859-3400— [www.osllakeland.org](http://www.osllakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

## August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Pentecost-11(C) † PRIORITIES †

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the visitor, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

### ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 15**. Feel free to leave the service folder insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	425 (6v)	All Depends On Our Possessing
Hymn of Day	430 (8v)	Sing v1-4 What Is the World To Me(?)
Sermon	Luke 12: 13-22	<i>"Give Us LIFE, Not STUFF"</i>
Offering Hymn	179 (1v)	On My Heart Imprint Thine Image
Communion Hymn	430 (4v)	Sing v5-8 if time <i>"The world is sorely..."</i>
Closing Hymn	660 (4v)	I'm But A Stranger Here, Heav'n Home

### PROPERs for (TRINITY10=) ELEVENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST † AUG 4

**INTROIT:** As for me, I will call upon God; and He will hear my voice. He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle which was against me. God will hear and afflict them, even He who abides of old. Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you. Give ear to my prayer, O God; and do not hide Yourself. ...Ps. 55

**COLLECT:** O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant that we, who by Your grace in Christ have been made partakers of Your heavenly treasure, may cheerfully serve You also in this life, walking in the way of Your commandments; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns...  
**C:** ♪ A- -men.

**GRADUAL:** Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings. Let my sentence come forth from Your presence! Let Your eyes behold the things that are equal. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before You. Alleluia!  
 ...from Psalm 17

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

**Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26** "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

**Colossians 3:1-11** (Christians) Keep our eyes fixed on Things Above.

**Luke 12:13-21** (Rich Fool) Had "Abundant Stuff" but Not Abundant Life.

**SERMON Text:** (Gospel-C) Luke 12:13-21 Theme: **"GIVE US ABUNDANT LIFE"**

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Patty & Buster Brewbaker
Richard Birkenmeier	Delores (Dee) Kurczewski
Jonathan Jumper (Elaine's grandson)	Jeanette Kubly
Vivian Temple (surgery recovery)	Mariah Sawyer
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)	Ann Wentz

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeter	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	Robin Dux	!ICE CREAM! Social

**COFFEE** will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	22	32
Communion Attendance	--	25
Sunday Bible Class	13	11
Thursday Bible Class	10	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 8/4	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff...	Bible Study (Exodus 3,4) Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion) Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i>
Tuesday 8/6	6:00 pm	Catechism Class: Prescott, Jon & Mariah
Thursday, 8/8	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal in Seminole, FL
Thursday, 8/8	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck's (No AB)
Friday, 8/9	2:30 pm	Wedding of Paul & Daniella Koehler
Sunday, 8/11	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 ff...	Bible Study Divine Worship (no Holy Communion) Fellowship time: <b>!ICE CREAM! Social</b>

### Schedule notes - Some NEW things now in August

- + NEW Bulletin look: starting next Sunday, *All* bulletins will be in the B&W format that some of you have today. (No more pre-printed color covers)
- + Our church has a NEW Webpage! Check out: [www.OSLlakeland.ORG](http://www.OSLlakeland.ORG)
- + Pastor Andy's NEW Address: 6412 Odom Rd. / Lakeland, FL 33809
- Next Sun: 8/11 Worship (No L.S.) p.5 Hymns: 437, 656, 263, 394 & !ICE CREAM!

## TRI.10(PENT11C) Luke 12:13-21 "JESUS TEACHES (U\$) PRIORITIES"08.04.13

### INTRODUCTION

Comedian **Jack Benny** had a skit which illustrated how we place **money** ahead of everything. He is walking down the street when suddenly he is approached by an armed robber, "*Your money or your life!*" There is a long pause. Jack does nothing. The robber impatiently queried, "*Well?!*" Jack replied, "*Don't rush me, I'm thinking it over.*"

This morning I would like us to think a few moments about our **money**, our **stuff**, and our **LIFE**.

When it comes to wealth, the **Preacher/Teacher of Ecclesiastes**, is an expert. **Most people think he's Solomon**, the Son of David, the richest king in the history of Israel. He had it all. To put it in modern terms – cars, houses, women, personal chefs, a wine cellar, horses, gardens. You name it. He was the middle eastern version of excess. Over the top consumption.

And now he's writing to us to tell us what it's like. His report from the lap of luxury? **Vanity. Emptiness. Nothing. Chasing after wind.** Boxing the air. You work and work and work and some fool enjoys all the benefits. Or the economic bubble bursts. Or your paper profits evaporate. And all that you've worked so hard for, all that you planned to have is gone. Like the wind. Vanity. Emptiness.

We don't like to hear that. That's why prosperity preachers are so popular. That's how Joel Osteen can pack them in like crazy. He promises the abundant life to those who do it his way. God is going to give you in abundance, whatever you want, and more, overflowing. **Cars, clothes, houses.** Ask and it will be given you. I wonder if he ever read this morning's Gospel, that a man's life "*does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*" When Jesus promises life in abundance, He doesn't mean an abundance **of stuff**. In fact, the parable of the four kinds of soil tells us that an abundance of stuff can get in the way of life in abundance, the cares and riches of this world and **choke out the Life-giving Word**.

We learn early in life to idolize our money. It comes with the first allowance and all the rules about not spending it all in one place, etc. We learn the power in money as stored wealth, how we don't have to build bigger barns like the rich man in today's parable, but we can simply gather our money, put it in the bank or stuff it in the mattress, or if you don't want to take the government's word on currency, buy some gold and bury it somewhere. The beauty of money is that you can store your wealth, and unlike grain, it won't get moldy. It may not earn much interest these days, but at least it won't rot, though the deficit will certainly devalue it.

We also learn early in life to envy the kids with more money, the latest video games, the latest X-box or whatever is the thing to have. We grow up coveting even more, there seems to be no end to the things we want, and we mistake the abundant life for an abundance of stuff, a hefty portfolio, bigger houses, faster cars, a celebrity lifestyle. The cost is great. Just consider the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Solomon tried to warn us. There is nothing there. Do we listen?

Two brothers came to Jesus. They were fighting over an inheritance and wanted Jesus to serve as mediator. Jesus refuses to get involved. "Man, who made me judge or arbitrator over you?" Think of this from what you know. Jesus had come to die and rise, and here were two brothers bickering over their share of their folks' inheritance. You'd think they would know better. How many families

have been torn apart by inheritance disputes, with everyone demanding their fair share?

Jesus uses the incident as a warning to His disciples. Watch out! Be on guard against all covetousness (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment stuff). That seemingly polite almost secret sin of the heart unbuckled from God. You see, the **heart is like velcro and will stick to anything**. St. Paul calls covetousness "**idolatry**," because idols are made in the heart. Luther said that the sinful human heart is a "**veritable idol factory**," cranking out one idol after another. An idol is whatever we bow down and worship in your heart. Whatever we **fear, love, and trust above all things**. It usually isn't in God we trust but in gold we trust. And that love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. We will do most anything for money.

Jesus goes on to tell a **Parable of a Rich Man** who had an unusual bumper crop one year. "...*The land of a rich man produced plentifully.*" Notice that **it's the land**. Like most riches, the man had little to do with it. It was just plain dumb luck, being at the right place at the right time. And this excess created a crisis. **What to do with it? Where to store it?** And so he embarks on an ambitious building program, which so often happens when you fall into unexpected wealth. **You get ambitious**. Tear down the old barns and build bigger ones to store "*my grain and my goods and...my stuff.*" And then, after he was done building and storing, he could finally retire. Enjoy life. Relax, eat, drink, kick back, have some fun after all this hard work.

**One small problem.** There was a little blood vessel that was set to pop at about **2 AM, and his life would be over**. And all the things he labored over and worried about and planned would wind up in probate court. And then what? It's a tragedy, played out all too often – a rich man who has no joy in his riches. Or someone planning for a retirement that never comes, a plan cut short by cancer or a heart attack or an accident. As the Preacher of **Ecclesiastes** says, it's all **vanity, emptiness, nothing. Chasing after the wind**.

So then what? **What's the alternative? Is there a better way to live?** The answer, of course, is **YES**. The apostle Paul lays it out for us in the 3rd chapter of **Colossians**. He based what he has to say on the fact that in Christ we are already raised and glorified. We **are dead** to this life, even before our death. Baptism buried us in Jesus' death. "*If you have been raised with Christ (and you have been raised with Christ), seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. "Seek first the Kingdom of God,"* Jesus said, "*and all these things, the stuff of your life, will be added.*" **First** the Kingdom. The things that are above. **The eternal things**. What you will keep forever, thanks to Jesus.

"*Set your minds on things that are above and not on things that are on earth.*" Again, set your minds (that are renewed in Christ) on **eternal things**, not temporary and passing things. Why? Because these things "**die**." You died. That's right. You're already dead to the world, and one of the nice things about being dead to the world is that you have nothing in the world to lose. All that stuff you own that's piling up in your garage and the attics and closets of your life, **is NOT your life**. That's just your stuff. **Your life, your real life, the real you** as God created and intended, is hidden with Christ in God. **Hidden**. You can't see it. You must be told or you wouldn't know it.

**What does this mean?** It means, contrary to what **Joel Osteen** and the **prosperity preachers** tell you, that the abundance of your life is not having an

abundance of things but **being in Christ and receiving the abundance of LIFE** that He gives. It means that your life, as you now live it, is not a matter of building bigger barns to store more grain so you can enjoy life in the future, but living by faith in the Son of God who loved you and laid down His life to save you, and who gives you life in an abundance you cannot now even imagine.

It means that we hold our possessions **loosely, with a dead, open hand of faith**. There is nothing wrong with having stuff. Abraham had stuff. David had stuff. Solomon had **lots** of stuff, and he wrote to **warn us about it** too. But stuff can only be held loosely or you won't enjoy it. Think about it. You buy a brand new car. And it's all shiny and the finish is perfect. What's your biggest fear? Someone is going to ram it with a shopping cart in the parking lot and put a ding in that flawless finish. And so you park it way off in a lonely corner somewhere. And you size up the neighbors and try not to park it next to junky looking cars. (Like mine, for instance.)

**You do not know the day or the hour your life** (in this life) **will end**. And what's the point wasting it worrying over your stuff like that foolish rich guy agonizing over his barns when he has less than twelve hours to live? That's where idolatry will get you. Your idols will wind up consuming you, robbing you of every last ounce of Joy that the gifts of God can bring you. But by holding them with the dead hand of faith, trusting that even if we lose everything, we've **lost nothing**, there is the freedom to enjoy, to employ, to use and to give away! One church father remarked of that rich man in the parable, *"There was plenty of storage space for his surplus grain in the **empty mouths of the poor**."*

**Solomon** in all his wisdom said this: *"There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink, and find enjoyment in his toil. This also is from the hand of God, for apart from Him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?"* Ah. There's the secret. **Apart from God** who can have enjoyment? Without God at the center, without Jesus in the middle Redeeming all things, reconciling all things, making all things new, there is **no lasting enjoyment**. Just a race against decay, a futile running after the wind, an emptiness that can't be filled no matter how many ways you indulge yourself.

That's no way to live, my friends. And it's no way to have a life. But you are baptized into Christ who holds your life in a way that you cannot. And when Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Until then, enjoy your work, enjoy your food, enjoy your drink. Those are gifts from God. In our Gospel lesson this morning, Jesus gives us a different understanding of wealth than the one we (or the world) are used to. In fact, according to Jesus, the wealthiest person in the world is: someone who made their wealth in something other than land, or **anything in this world**, but has (found) **TRUE WEALTH** in **"another world,"** - they have true **heavenly riches**. And **that** can **never** be taken away from them.. **In Jesus' Name, Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost-C  **"Life, Money & Stuff"**  
**SERMON: "Do You Want Abundant \$TUFF(?),  
Or, Abundant LIFE?"**

## Prayer of the Church + 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost + 4 August 2013

Because everything good comes from the hand of the Lord and apart from Him none can find enjoyment in life, let us lift our prayers for all people to His throne of grace.

Lord, in this world filled with sorrow, emptiness and vanity, grant every member of Your Church faith that joyfully anticipates the time when Christ, our life, appears, so that we look forward constantly to the day when we will appear with Him in glory. Nourish us with the promises of Your Word and with the body and blood of Your Son, so that we remain faithful unto death. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, our inborn sin clings to us. Cleanse us of our covetousness. Empty us of all envy. No matter how much or how little we have in this world, prevent us from trusting in our wealth and guide us to use every possession to give praise to You and care for others. Teach us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, so that we eat, drink, labor and enjoy the life You give us here without ever losing sight of the new life we have in Christ Jesus. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, You give Your people the privilege of proclaiming the ransoming death of Your Son for us and His life-restoring Resurrection. Use missionaries, pastors and each of us to make known Your amazing mercy. Bring unbelievers to faith in Jesus and expand Your gracious kingdom. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our.***

You give us the gift of an ordered society, Lord. Direct in Your ways those who govern our nation, our state and our communities. Provide the leaders, businesses and education that we need to prosper. Protect our nation and watch over those who defend our country. Fill our land with citizens who are honest, noble and caring. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord, come to the aid of everyone in need. Heal those who are sick. Relieve those who suffer. Strengthen those who are recovering. And comfort those who are dying. [Especially we commend to Your care \_\_\_\_\_.]

<b>Madeline Beck,</b>	<b>Elma's Brother,</b>	<b>Patty &amp; Buster Brewbaker</b>
<b>Richard Birkenmeier</b>		<b>Delores (Dee) Kurczewski</b>
<b>Jonathan Jumper</b> (Elaine's grandson)	<b>Shalem</b> (India)	<b>Jeanette Kubly</b>
<b>Vivian Temple</b> (surgery recovery)		<b>Mariah Sawyer</b>
<b>George Wendt</b> (brother of <b>Steve Wendt</b> )		<b>Ann Wentz</b>

Grant that trusting in Your care, they fear no evil but find peace in Your promises and presence. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Even when evil days come, Lord, remove all fear from us and all people. Assure us that because Your Son has redeemed us from the grave, You hear our pleas and deliver us from evil in the way You know is best. Bless the efforts of all the relief agencies of the Church. Supply the financial resources they need to do their work and bring Your care to traumatized people. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.*** (*Prayer for **Wedding of Paul & Daniella Koehler** this Friday*)

Lord, set our minds on the things above, not on the things of the earth. Fill us with joy in our baptismal life, confident that we have died and our life is hidden with Christ in You. Put to death in us all sexual immorality, impurity, passion and evil desires. Clothe us in Christ and His new life so that the world will see by the way we live that we belong to You. *Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Hear our pleas, Lord, for we pray in the Name of **Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord**, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**