

PARABLE  
OF THE  
RICH  
FOOL

# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 31, Issue 31

July 31, 2022

## "The Rich Fool"

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### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the  
Word may live in others.

Living Word  
Lutheran Church

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
9:15 am Adult study  
10:00 am Worship

It is no secret that we Americans live in a materialistic culture. For some people the pursuit of wealth and possessions seems to function as a kind of religion substitute. The Old Testament wisdom books and the New Testament writings have some wise things to say about money and possessions. While affirming that we live in the real world of commerce, they teach us that we should not make material possessions into a god, that life is fragile and ultimately in God's hands and that we need to sort out what is really important and lasting before it is too late.

One of the recurrent figures in the biblical wisdom tradition is the rich fool, that is, the person who works hard to amass great wealth only to leave it at his death to heirs who will fritter it away. The author of the book known as Ecclesiastes is the grumpy old man of the Bible. In statements that are typical of his outlook he describes life as "toil" and "vanity," and in today's selection he brings up the example of someone who has used all his ingenuity and energy to build a fortune only to have to pass on his property to someone who has not labored at all.

This theme is developed in today's reading from Luke 12, which contains the parable of the rich fool. The occasion is a request that Jesus serve as an arbiter between two brothers in dividing their inheritance. The eldest son usually received the largest share. Instead of accommodating this request, Jesus uses the opportunity to warn them against greed and to teach that "though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

To illustrate this point, Jesus presents the parable of the rich fool, containing a monologue by the rich man and the divine judgment upon him. The rich man had a very good harvest. Instead of enjoying the fruits of his harvest, however, the rich man put all his thoughts and energy into plans for building even larger barns to hold the abundance. He imagines that when the building projects have been completed, he will rest and enjoy himself. His words to himself ("rest, eat, drink, be merry") echo terms found on many tombstones in antiquity. But the new barns are never built, because the man dies suddenly. Instead, the fruits of his labors are passed on to someone else, and he finds no enjoyment in them. In the divine judgment he is addressed, "You fool."

As both the reading from Ecclesiastes and the Lukan parable of the rich fool emphasize, there are few sadder sights than someone who puts all his talents and energies in making a lot of money only to leave it all to a lazy and wasteful heir. These texts remind us that we never know when death may come to us, that we cannot place our ultimate trust in money and material possessions because they too are fragile, and that in our life we must not let material possessions become more important than fulfilling our commitments to God, ourselves and other persons. Otherwise we too may merit the name, "You fool."

But Jesus refuses to get caught up in the earthly realm. After all, Christ had taught His followers, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). It is possible that the man making the request is the younger of the two, since in that day the oldest brother held the right to the property or the permission required to do anything with the inheritance. Regardless, Jesus' mission is related to the most important issue in the entire universe: the salvation of mankind. The man making the request is either not paying attention to the teaching of Jesus or is unable to understand what He has just heard.

# August 2022 Calendar

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	8	9 10:00 am PUSH	10	11	12 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	13
14 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	15 1:00 pm Transition Team Meeting	16 10:00 am PUSH 7:00 pm Council Meeting	17	18	19 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	20
21 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship— COMM	22	23 10:00 am PUSH	24	25	26 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	27
28 9:15 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	29	30 10:00 am PUSH	31	<p><i>Preschool Starts Next Month</i></p> 		

## Mission of the Month

**LIVING WORD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM** is the Mission of the Month for August. We have 5 students enrolled and a few more said that they will be registering by midyear or even sooner. Help keep us opened till we have more students. You have been so supportive in previous years, the children will have an excellent year, Mrs. Diana has been working so hard over the summer, both rooms will be put to great use this year. She has the Dramatic Arts Play area all ready to show them new and exciting adventures, they will start off the school year camping in tents and fishing in the pond. I can't wait to see what will be their adventures the rest of the year! Please join with me in keeping our Preschool in your prayers.



**Aug 3** Dale Johnson  
**Aug 8** Jerry Erjavec  
**Aug 19** Sandy Boehm  
**Aug 20** Clarissa Tarandy  
**Aug 21** Larry Andorf  
**Aug 28** Renate DiGrazia  
**Aug 31** Randy Hodo



**Aug 1** Donna Wasilkoff  
**Aug 6** Jim McKinney  
**Aug 9** Randy Hodo  
**Aug 9** Robert Hodo  
**Aug 12** Lisa Regan  
**Aug 16** Jerry Erjavec  
**Aug 19** Kurt Meier  
**Aug 25** Lara Wasilkoff  
**Aug 29** Katie Ozark  
**Aug 31** Sandy Boehm

## Anniversary



**Aug 11** Tiffani & David West  
**Aug 17** Jodi & Bruce Kempke  
**Aug 30** Joan & Russ Tinich

## Stewardship Snapshot

July 24th

**19 Worshipped**

**2 DVD**

**5 Watched Online**

**26 Total**

### Financial Support

2,065.00 General Fund Deposit

100.00 Preschool Registration Deposit

570.00 Designated Funds Deposit VBS

Living Word's budget calls for weekly offerings averaging \$3654 to fund our ministry. Regular, intentional and meaningful contributions from what the Lord provides you helps carry this out.

## Church Contacts

[intouchlwlc@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchlwlc@yahoo.com)

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**

[dianamotel@yahoo.com](mailto:dianamotel@yahoo.com) 708-287-4939

### Leadership Team

**Neal Hartz** - President 847-344-2410

**Jim McKinney** - Vice President 708-359-8527

**Bill Merchantz** - Treasurer 708-539-6027

**Diana Motel** - Secretary 708-287-4939

### Members at Large

**Pastor John Bucka** 815-931-2961

**Bob Grossart** 708-870-0202

**Paul Huang** 626-551-1446

## Sharing Information

**SHARE OUR POSTS!!** Please share our posts with all of your Facebook groups, it's a very small and easy thing to do and the results are so great. Diana has created an ad on Facebook for our preschool, if at all possible, please start sharing the updated information for the two different week day options for preschool and for the two different weeks that she is offering for the preschool summer primer. The same day she had created the ad on Facebook, she had already received comments and questions about the preschool, this should be a great way to reach more people.

**WORSHIP LINKS** are emailed out every Sunday after service. If you are unable to come join us in person for service, we totally understand, but if you have the capability of watching the service online, please do so. You can watch the livestream from YouTube or our Facebook page, or just click on the link that is emailed to you. Not only will it keep you connected to your church family, but it will also help us grow our attendance totals, which is very important, if we grow our church's attendance, either in person and virtually by 10% we will meet the requirement for the endowment fund to receive approximately \$20,000 or better. We are all struggling in these difficult times, but if we all work together, we will all prosper. Please feel free to share the links or watch with family and friends, kindly let us know how many had watched. Thank you for all your help!

**A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH** As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving their home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa or from your bed. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa or from under the covers. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church, besides WE are your church family.

## **"The Lord is God"**

Psalms 100 says: "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his." Today we ask: "Is the Lord YOUR God?"

### **1) Do you live your life under the SUN?**

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: <sup>2</sup>"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." ... <sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! <sup>14</sup>I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14

### **2) Do you live your life above with the SON?**

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

### **3) Do you chase RAGS or RICHES?**

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

## **Living Word News**

**ORLAND PARK FOOD PANTRY** was the Mission of the Month for July. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and any monetary donations. Diana will have a fun little food groups contest from VBS to help with our mission. As always, thank you for all your generosity for our community.

**WOLF ROAD BRIDGE** over I-80 will be closed from 183rd Street to 187th Street starting Monday, July 25th till December 2022. They will have detours clearly posted, to avoid the area completely, LaGrange Rd. may be a good alternative route.

**LIVING WORD ANNUAL PICNIC** is today, we have invited the VBS families to join us for closing ceremonies and to join us for the picnic. We do have some snack items leftover from VBS, and others have signed up to bring bunch more goodies. You know what a good time and fellowship we always have at our picnics.

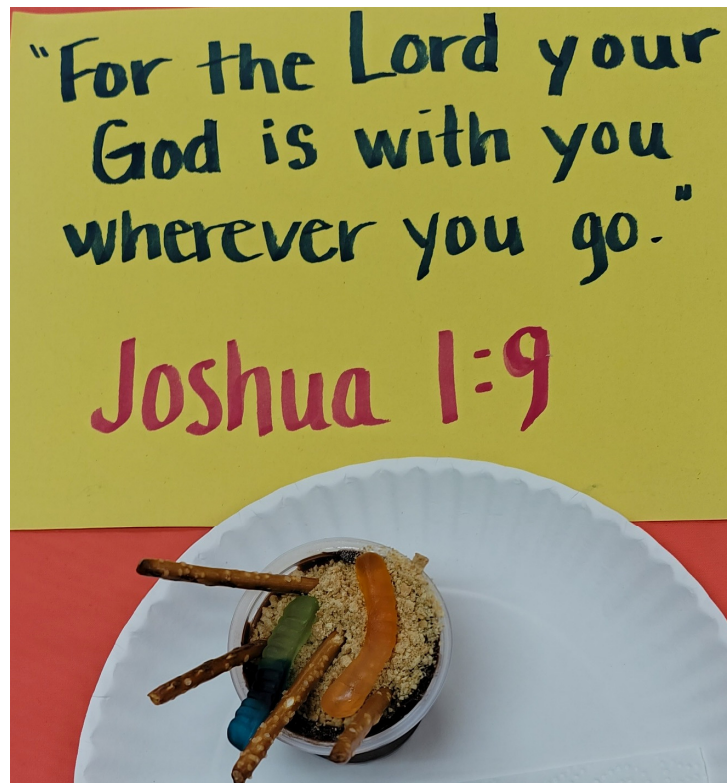
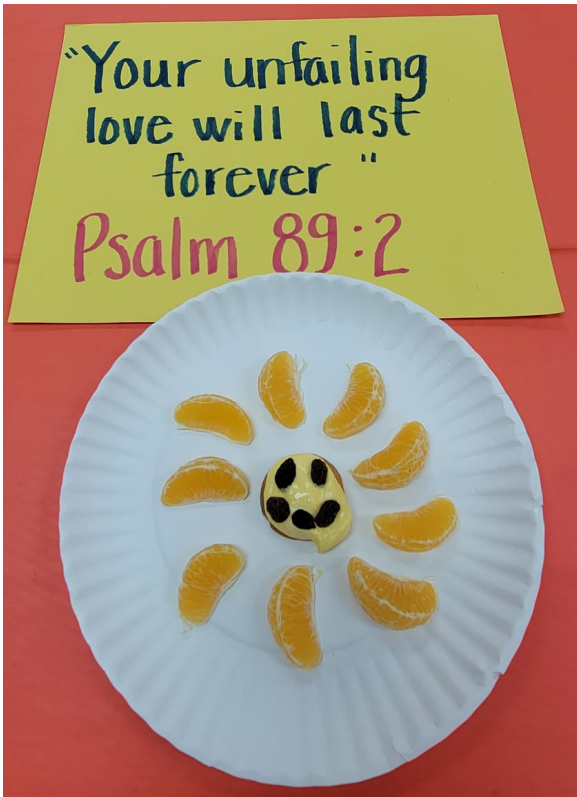
## **VBS 2022**



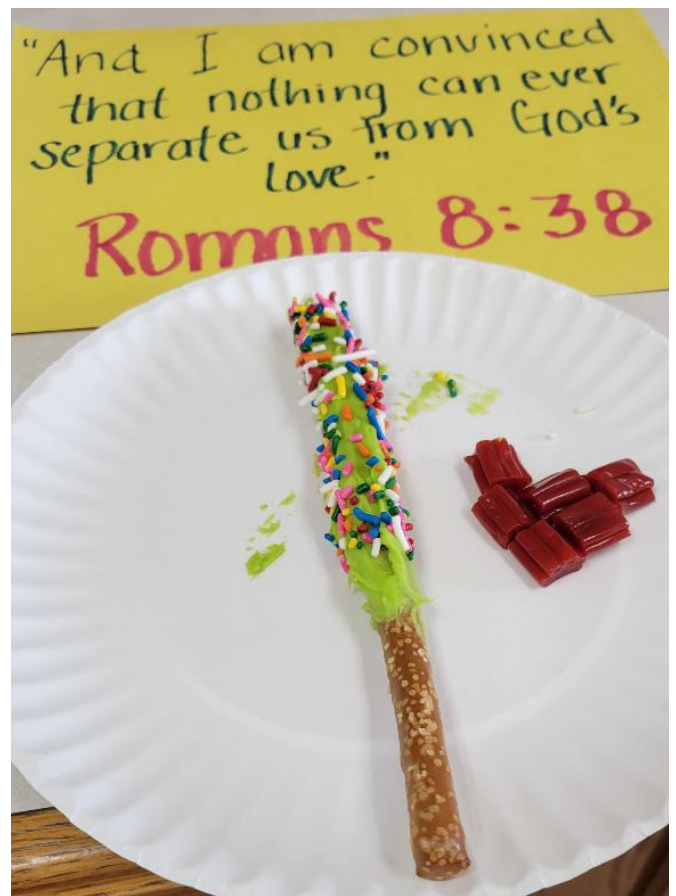


**WHAT AN AMAZING WEEK** we had here at church for VBS. Diana and Sheri were amazing as usual, as you can see in the pictures, we had the largest group yet in the past several weeks. Diana led the groups during music time and craft time. Pastor Lee had Bible story time with the kids everyday, and Sheri made sure that they had snacks everyday and had learned a Bible verse. Enjoy the pictures that are on our Facebook page and on the next few pages . Thank you to everybody who donated all of the items for game time and snack time, the kids loved it.





Snack time at VBS was all about the desert this year. Day 1 was the Southwestern Sun and how happy the sun can make you feel, just like God's unfailing love makes us feel. Tuesday was Desert Sand Cups, that was the kids favorite by Tuesday, lol. Day 3 was Desert Crunch, aka trail mix. Then on Thursday we had a cactus and had God's heart protecting us from the prickly needles of the cactus. Can't wait to see what they will have for Friday, lol, which was popcorn, Chex cereal and pretzels.







**CRAFT TIME WITH MRS. DIANA** turned out many creative pieces of art work that the kids could take home with them for memories of what a fun week they had here. As you can from the photos on the previous page, they made quite a bit of stuff. They colored their Memento Bags on Monday, that way they had something to keep their slime in that day, as well as the rest of their treasures from the week, which included their flowers and the Shrinky Dink bracelets on Thursday. They made their own Miley, the roadrunner, and Rollo, the armadillo. They also had created cactus and desert trip scenes, showing how God is always with you wherever you go. And of course, you can see all the great artwork that is decorating our walks outside.

