

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL"

Part I: "Possessed by Our Possessions"

Order of Worship Sunday November 23, 2025 – 10 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Steven Hobert

Welcome to God's House!

We strive to be the local church in the community of Northeast Minneapolis, who are here to help people come to KNOW Jesus, GROW in their faith and GO into the world equipped to SERVE others. GLORY TO GOD!

Today's Topic: Possessions can be tricky. On the one hand, many of them are needed and incredibly useful. But on the other hand, they can possess us in ways that we may or may not realize. In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus warns, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." His point is easy to understand. But then the question becomes, "Do we actually live as if what he said is true?" Let's find out.

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any assistance to you, please speak with the Pastor after the service or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in each pew. They will be added to the Prayer list. You can hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will be given to the Pastor to be included in the prayers for today. **Other prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office at 612.781.1989.**

Children are welcome in worship!

The Lord's Supper is celebrated.

When we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,

- we express the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man;
- that Jesus is our Savior and only way for salvation;
- that Jesus offers us His Body and Blood in a mysterious yet real way;
- that Christ's sacrificial death grants the forgiveness of our sins;
- and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a more godly life and to amend with the help of the Holy Spirit, those areas not in conformity with God's will.

We declare these statements because it is our concern for people to not be hypocritical between their faith and celebrate the blessings of God's Table at the Altar.

NO Wednesday bible study November 26.

Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday, November 26 at 5 pm.

Tell Your Friends and Family!

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

AS WE GATHER: True wealth is spiritual and lasting, earned by being "rich toward God," which involves generosity, gratitude, and focusing on eternal treasures rather than temporary earthly ones.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Because He Lives"

Karmon Christopherson

INVOCATION

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins to God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

C: **Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, and everything that prevents us taking delight in you. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ NURTURE +

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er-take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us;
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Proverbs 11:2-5,24,25,28**

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING**1Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19**

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

LSB 712

Text & Tune: © 1972 Maranatha! Music; admin. Music Services (ASCAP)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

"The Parable of The Rich Fool" - Part I: "Possessed by Our Possessions"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ *EMPOWER* +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our 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.

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

L: It is our duty and delight at all times and everywhere to give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have enlightened us by the working of the Holy Spirit. Grant that the Spirit, who has called and gathered us, would guide us in all things, that we be enabled to speak the Gospel to others and rejoice in sharing the gift of salvation that is our treasure. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take this, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you, Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

ViW 44

Text and Music: Public Domain

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+ Silent Prayer +

POSTLUDE

+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +

+ + +

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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

11/23 Sun

Last Sunday of the Church Year

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

11/24 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

11/26 Wed

NO Bible Study

5:00 pm **Thanksgiving Service with Holy Communion,
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

11/28 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

11/29 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

11/30 Sun

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altarcare: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Attendance: 11/16/2025: 28

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH

Assistance is needed to help decorate the church for the holiday season. Please plan to join us on Tuesday, December 2, starting at 9:30 am. All volunteers are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Gwen Johnson, Al Morelli, Roselyn Norman, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Alec Schwandt and all our shut-ins

Danielle Ohnstad continued prayers as she struggles through breast cancer

Marie Padmore (Roselyn's sister) prayers for positive test results

Aaron Morelli upcoming testing

Pastor Martin Cornes' father-in-law, Dan, recently diagnosed with cancer; has undergone surgery. He is now staying in a transitional care facility; discussions regarding future treatment options are forthcoming

Roger Kropelniki (Ken Biebighauser's BnL) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues

Karen Charpentier (Ken Biebighauser's sister) going through cancer treatment

Diane Sharbono undergoing cancer treatment

Dorie (Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law) addressing unexpected issues.

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger

Kim Morelli and Amy Rich (Morelli's DnLs) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments

Mudy Mason dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.

James Norman, Sr. (James' dad) Continued prayers, prostate cancer seems to be getting worse, he is having increasing pain and decreased mobility

Nonie Wakeman (Shirley Slagle's SnL) diagnosed with Lung Cancer

Karen (Karmon's sister) Recently diagnosed with cancer (Warren's wife)

Kurt Nowacki (Bruce & Julie Cross' Brother-in-Law) recently diagnosed with 'myopathy,' a degenerative muscle disease

Bruce (Wenda Schwoch's BnL) has stage 4 prostate cancer and **Ashley** (Wenda's niece) continued prayers

Warren (Karmon's BnL) continued prayers as he continues treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) dealing with continued health concerns

For First Responders/Health Care Workers, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

November 23

"An Unlikely King"

(Philippians 2:5-11)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

November 30

"Rise and Shine"

(Romans 13:11)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It's a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down.

On Sunday mornings, listen on 830 AM WCCO AM at 6:05 am, or 1110 AM, Omaha, at 6:30 am, or XM 170 Satellite Radio on Sundays at noon or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org

STEWARDSHIP: *Proper 29 - Colossians 1:18a*

"And he is the head of the body, the church." We are part of the Body of Christ; He is our Head. Where He goes, we follow. His thoughts direct our actions. This is how the people of God learn how to give and why they give. Because Jesus gives, indeed He gives all He has.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"When life around us is dark and despairing, when troubles are real and overwhelming, when our hurts outweigh our joys, take a moment to think about God's beautiful creation given for us as a 'good and perfect gift.' Take a moment to remember that we have another Light in our world—our Lord Jesus Who is the Creator of all things and is the light of men." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Main Street Living each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of *This Is the Life*. This week's episode is **"To Take a Life."** A devoted son's loving father is terminally ill, suffering severely and pleading to die. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. James Norton from Zion & Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Fall Creek, WI, presents a message titled **"Are You Ready for the End?"** based on **Malachi 3:18**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

Order Poinsettias for the Christmas Season

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Altar display at Christmas, please sign-up before NOVEMBER 30th! Plants will be ordered through Pletscher's Greenhouse and are \$21.99 each OR you may bring your own. Colors are Red, Pink or White.

Thank You!

Salvation Army Christmas Tree Gift Collection Has Started!

The Social Ministry Committee will collect new gifts for children ages 0-14 for the Salvation Army from **November 13 to December 7**. Please bring unwrapped items to the Church and place them under the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Also, include an estimated dollar value for each gift, as requested by the Salvation Army's auditor.

GIFT IDEAS:

BOYS 6-14: Legos, Play tent, Tonka Trucks, Walkie Talkies, Hot Wheels, Children's Camera, Remote Control Cars, Star Wars toys, NBA/NFL clothing and gear.

GIRLS 6-14: Barbie Dolls (multi-cultural), Children's Camera, Scooter, Bead/Jewelry Kits, Art Kits/Projects, Make-up kits, Hair Accessories.

Annual Lantern Walk Through the Bible - December 6 from 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Join the journey!

The **Lantern Walk Through the Bible** will feature "stations" along a snowy, lantern-lit pathway, highlighting Bible verses from Genesis through Revelation. The Lantern Walk Through is a self-guided, go at your own pace, no tour guide event. At the end of the journey, experience the warmth from a firepit and enjoy roasting marshmallows as you sip hot chocolate. This **FREE** one-of-a-kind event is open to the neighborhood and surrounding community and will take place entirely on the church's lawn. Please dress warm! We realize this event takes place outside, however, if as you make your way through the snowy, lantern-lined paths, you find yourself feeling a bit chilly, stop by the warming room inside the church!

THANK YOU, *Operation Christmas Child* Collected 21 Shoeboxes!

These simple gifts are all shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. The mission of Samaritan's Purse and Operations Christmas Child is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your generous giving!