

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

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Pastor Wurm

Wealth and Poverty

The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus from Luke chapter sixteen has profound meaning on many levels. We hear Jesus say again that God's word will be rejected by many. We learn that a great chasm has been fixed between heaven and hell and it cannot be passed over once one has died. And we gain a deep teaching about wealth and poverty.

The rich man had to step over Lazarus every day by his gate, yet aided him none, revealing the callousness of his heart. In the world, the rich man had every pleasure at hand and Lazarus had dogs lick his sores. But in the life to come, Lazarus was comforted and the rich man tormented. What are we to make of this parable?

Early church father, St. John Chrysostom, argues that Lazarus was chastised to discipline him in virtue. Chrysostom counts nine chastisements that brought about Lazarus' virtue; he was poverty stricken, ill, lonely, lacked care, forced to observe the good fortune of others daily, watched the lifestyle of the wicked, lacked fellow sufferers, lacked the hope of Christ's resurrection and thereby, his, and was slandered by foolish people.

From the outside there couldn't be a greater difference between the rich man and Lazarus in this life. Yet, there is a hidden common ground – they both lived in starvation. Lazarus in abject starvation of body and hope. The rich man, starvation of virtue. He was a full of sores within.

Chrysostom teaches that the conscience is an imperi-

al throne, an internal courtroom in which we all sit as our own jurors. Day and night the rich man's conscience would have accused him of his evil, yet he chose the intoxicating pleasures of sin to silence the accusing voice of the conscience within. In reality, his soul was wounded with the sores evil and, as the dogs licked the sores of Lazarus, so too, did the demons lick the sins of rich man. The rich man chose to silence virtue and its discernment just to keep up his image of wealth and prosperity. Sadly, his comfort was only in his imagination. In reality, he was poor and Lazarus was rich. The end of the parable shows that as such.

Wealth, gold and silver, land and retirement funds are not evil by any means. How we use them as stewards of God's good gifts to us in quite another thing. Material poverty is not an intrinsically evil thing either. It is an indifferent matter. How we respond to wealth and to poverty is what matters. Both a rich and poor man alike can be consumed by desire for another's property and possession. This is evil for both the rich and poor alike. So when in terms of money and possessions, is enough enough?

St. Augustine draws the distinction between sufficiency and self-indulgence. It is good for the ambitious to advance in the world, as long as their desire is to do good by providing for the welfare of those who live under them, and not just for themselves. Ambition fueled by the empty pride of self-esteem is to be avoided.

Generally speaking, the church fathers don't provide detailed codes and laws for answering the question of sufficiency and need, instead they spend more time describing the kind of person who can possess and administer goods wisely. Such a person is a godly and virtuous steward in the kingdom of God. Like Lazarus, he knows that his real treasures lie in heaven and not on earth. The wealth or poverty that has come to him from the Lord's hand is not meant either for his benefit nor punishment, but that he might learn the virtues of discernment, contentment, and care for others.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt Wurm

A Word From Pastor Bauer



Tell the Truth Witnessing, Part 3

"Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice'" (John 18:37).

"Tell the truth." It's what your parents always told you. But what is the truth? It's not only, "Mom, I broke your lamp." The truth is what is in accord with reality. **To tell the truth is to reveal the way things really are.** Unveiling the mystery of the lamp is no different than unveiling the mystery of Christ, except that the latter is much more important.

To witness is to confess what is true—to verbally acknowledge what is already true. Just as a witness in court confesses what he saw or heard, so **Christian witnesses confess what we have seen and heard:** Jesus is Lord, and through his Word and Sacraments he saves us from sin, death, and the devil. **It's simply the way things actually are (whether you believe it or not).**

"But that's just your opinion," people might counter. Actually, it's not. To confess is not to state your own opinions, ideas, or preferences; to confess is to tell the truth about what you have seen and heard. It's not on you to make something up. It's not even on you to make someone believe. Just tell the truth.

Confessing your Lord is hardly different than confessing your sins. "It is true, I have sinned in these ways." "It is true, Jesus rose from the dead."

In the first Christian sermon ever, Saint Peter confessed the truth of the risen Christ and its implications for every person: "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). The effect? 3,000 people were cut to the heart. They repented, were baptized, believed, and they were brought into fellowship with God and were saved from eternal damnation.

Saint Paul confirms that this is the normal way that people are brought into faith: "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13).

Some people will not believe you. This should not surprise you, though it is tremendously sad, not just because hell is at the end of that road, but because they do not know true forgiveness, life, and salvation now. But this is always how it was going to be. This is how Jesus described his ministry and the fact that not everybody was believing him:

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

In Christ,
Pastor Bauer

Date	First Reading	Second Reading
October 1	Deuteronomy 2:16-37	Matthew 6:16-34
October 2	Deuteronomy 3:1-29	Matthew 7:1-12
October 3	Deuteronomy 4:1-20	Matthew 7:13-29
October 4	Deuteronomy 4:21-40	Matthew 8:1-17
October 5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21	Matthew 8:18-34
October 6	Deuteronomy 5:22-6:9	Matthew 9:1-17
October 7	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	Matthew 9:18-38
October 8	Deuteronomy 7:1-19	Matthew 10:1-23
October 9	Deuteronomy 8:1-20	Matthew 10:24-42
October 10	Deuteronomy 9:1-22	Matthew 11:1-19
October 11	Deuteronomy 9:23-10:22	Matthew 11:20-30
October 12	Deuteronomy 11:1-25	Matthew 12:1-21
October 13	Deuteronomy 11:26-12:12	Matthew 12:22-37
October 14	Deuteronomy 12:13-32	Matthew 12:38-50
October 15	Deuteronomy 13:1-18	Matthew 13:1-23
October 16	Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 22-23, 14:28-15:15	Matthew 13:24-43
October 17	Deuteronomy 15:19-16:22	Matthew 13:44-58
October 18	Deuteronomy 17:1-20	Matthew 14:1-21
October 19	Deuteronomy 18:1-22	Matthew 14:22-36
October 20	Deuteronomy 19:1-20	Matthew 15:1-20
October 21	Deuteronomy 20:1-20	Matthew 15:21-39
October 22	Deuteronomy 21:1-23	Matthew 16:1-12
October 23	Deuteronomy 24:10-25:10	Matthew 16:13-28
October 24	Deuteronomy 25:17-26:19	Matthew 17:1-13
October 25	Deuteronomy 27:1-26	Matthew 17:14-27
October 26	Deuteronomy 28:1-22	Matthew 18:1-20
October 27	Deuteronomy 29:1-29	Matthew 18:21-35
October 28	Deuteronomy 30:1-20	Matthew 19:1-15
October 29	Deuteronomy 31:1-29	Matthew 19:16-30
October 30	Deuteronomy 31:30-32:27	Matthew 20:1-16
October 31	Deuteronomy 32:28-52	Matthew 20:17-34

Daily Lectio

WHERE WE STAND



Hy-Vee Receipts

Keep saving your Hy-Vee receipts. Once we have \$150,000 in receipts, our church will receive \$1,000 from Hy-Vee to use as we would like to. Drop boxes may be found on the small table by the member mailboxes in the narthex.

As of September 19, we have collected \$33,358.19 in Hy-Vee receipts.

Reminder: We can only use **Brookings Hy-Vee** receipts.

Grocery, Pharmacy and Gas receipts and accepted.

Darlene Carpenter	The Neighborhoods, 2421 Yorkshire Dr. Ash #6	
Delores Carpenter	ULC, 405 1st Ave. #112	
Amy Heidemann	1615 Main Ave. S.	
Barb Hines	ULC, 405 1st Ave. #307	692-4423
Pearl Huether	104 4th St. #116	692-5810
Joyce Peters	2410 Sunrise Ridge Cir. #107	692-4781
Tyler Krump	17267 W. 3rd St., Redfield, SD 57469	605-472-4323
Floyd & Alyce Melrose	1906 12th St. S. #33	692-5755
Chris Wellnitz	701 1st Ave. NE #104, Watertown, SD 57201	605-886-6449

Our church family includes a few people who are not able to attend church and church activities regularly. The listing above is those considered home bound. We ask our active members to please remember these folks with visits, cards and/or prayers.

President: Matthew Baker
Vice President: Chris Schaefer
Secretary: Melody Hall
Treasurer: Jeff Siekmann



Have you recently moved?

Do you have a new phone number?

What's your email address?

Please notify the church office when your contact information has changed. It's good to keep our records current.

Thank you!

GROUPS WITH NEWS



Mount Calvary LWML and Aid met September 6th with 13 members present. Pastor Bauer gave the devotion from the book *Pew Sisters*, section IX, Psalm 34:1-19. The Birthday song was sung for 4 members. The League Pledge was said. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasure shows a balance of \$938.25.

Laura reported the Strategic Planning Committee decided there will be no Wednesday services. The 5th Sunday of each month, between services, a breakfast will be served. Everyone is to invite friends.

Human Care will work on quilts September 20th at 9:00. Seven cards were sent and the history book is up to date. The Funeral Committee made plans for Shirley Wiese's funeral on September 10th.

Thank yous were from Shirley's birthday party, the hospital for the blankets, and Pastor Bauer for the Winkel lunch. Remember that October 6th is the Fall Festival (raffle and bake sale). October 7th is LWML Sunday, October 27th is our Fall Rally with the theme being "My Cup Overflows".

Ladies' Morning Out is September 22 from 9:45-12:00 at Shadé Winery. Cookies and Canvas is November 16th from 6:30-8:30. The hostess for October 4th is Joann.

Meeting adjourned. The Table Prayer was said.

Submitted by Secretary Pat

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church is hosting a Community Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6th from 10:00-2:00pm. The Festival will offer free games, crafts, an obstacle course and a huge slide for children! Contests, prizes, and a raffle will also be held. All of the money raised from concessions will go to Option 1. Money raised from the bake sale and raffle will go to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



Hobo Day Warmth

The Lutheran Student Fellowship and Pastor Bauer will offer a warm cup of hot chocolate and baked goodies to passers-by during the Hobo Day parade. They will have their stand ready to go by 9:00am. Stop by the Bauer's yard and help support our college group during the parade. The funds raised will help offset expenses when the LSF travel to the 2019 National LCMS Campus Ministry Conference: "Witness" in January. Who doesn't look forward to a warm beverage on a brisk homecoming morning and a sweet treat to go with it?

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

October 2018 Newsletter Article



STEWARDSHIP

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

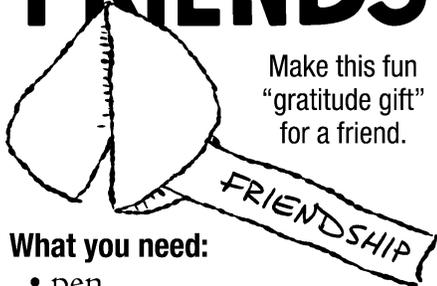
"Give us this day our daily bread." *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

CALVARY KIDS CORNER

Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun "gratitude gift" for a friend.

What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.



From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

D	E	F	I	R	N
F					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
Perfume					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
the					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
A friend					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV