



FOCUSED

Focused Living Properly Values Earthly Wealth

**July 31, 2022
8th Sunday after Pentecost**

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 31, 2022

West Des Moines, IA

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today.

Please sign in so we may have a record of your worship.

This morning we are celebrating the Lord's Supper. It is a supper established by Jesus for his disciples. St. Paul further states that the supper is an expression of a oneness of belief and faith. If you are not a member of the WELS or ELS, we ask that you please speak with the pastor before coming to the altar. Thank you.

Serving Today

Lay Liturgist	Chris Ragner
Accompanist	Anna Christian
Streaming	Zachary Bacon
Ushers	
Bible Study	Zachary Bacon

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Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Mathew Pfeifer Pastor@lhelc.org
(515) 771-5111

Setting One

pg 154

Opening Hymn

917 God Himself Is Present

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26 (EHV)

The words of Ecclesiastes, David's son, king in Jerusalem.

²"Nothing but vapor," Ecclesiastes said. "Totally vapor. Everything is just vapor that vanishes." ¹²I, Ecclesiastes, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my heart to seek out and explore with wisdom everything done under the sky. (What a burdensome task God has given the children of Adam to keep them busy!) ¹⁴I have seen all the actions done under the sun, and, look, it is all nothing but vapor. It is all chasing the wind. ²¹⁸I also hated all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard under the sun, since I must leave it all to the man who comes after me. ¹⁹And who knows—will he be wise, or a fool?

Yet he will have control over all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard and so wisely, under the sun. This too is vapor that vanishes.

²⁰So I changed my course, and my heart began to despair over all my hard work at which I worked so hard under the sun. ²¹Sure, there may be a man who has worked hard—wisely, aptly, and skillfully. But he must hand over whatever he accumulated by all his hard work to a man who has not worked hard for it. This too is vapor. It's so unfair! ²²For what does a man gain through all his hard work, through all the turmoil in his heart as he works so hard under the sun?

²³Bah! Pain fills his days. His occupation is frustration. Even at night his heart does not rest. This too is vapor. ²⁴There is nothing better for a man than to eat and to drink and to find joy in his work. This too, I saw, is from God's hand. ²⁵For who can eat or enjoy himself apart from him? ²⁶Yes, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness to the man whom he considers good, but to the person who goes on sinning God gives the task of gathering and collecting, but only so that he can give it all to a person whom God considers good. This too is vapor, nothing but chasing wind.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

90A Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Psalm 90A

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone

Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all genera- / tions.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, “Return to dust, you / mortals.”

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. Refrain

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of our hands.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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Tune: Mark Haas, alt.
Setting: Mark Haas, alt.
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Second Reading

Colossians 3:1–11 (EHV)

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ So put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.⁶ It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience.⁷ You too once walked in these things, when you were living in them.

⁸ But now, you too are to rid yourselves of all of these: wrath, anger, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.⁹ Do not lie to each other since you have put off the old self with its practices,¹⁰ and put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in knowledge, according to the image of its Creator.¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but rather Christ is all and is in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 161

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

Your words are my joy and my heart's de - light.

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Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.”

¹⁶He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.’”

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’ ²¹“That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Sermon

Focused Living: Earthly Wealth

Luke 12:13-21

Distribution Hymn

676 Take and Eat

Closing Hymn

932 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday.

The Word for next Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-6 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:22-34

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list.

Ukraine

Dylan and Ursula Heuer expecting in October

Zach and Rylee Bacon expecting in November

Ken Gibb recovery from lung transplant

Rylee Bacon whose grandmother passed away July 25

THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

July 31—August 7

Today	9:00 am 10:25 am	Worship w/Communion Sunday School Bible Class
Thursday	6—8 pm 5:15 pm	Vacation Bible School <i>Cookout/potluck</i>
Sunday	9:00 am 10:25 am 6:30 pm	Worship Sunday School Bible Class Church Council Meeting

Vacation Bible School—Thursday, August 4th.

An “inter-generational” VBS - for all ages with activities for 3 year olds - 6th graders, teens, and adults.

Kick off approximately 5:15pm with a cookout/potluck, followed by activities at 6pm.

New Member Course

Third Saturdays, 9 am—Noon
July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15

The lessons from “Basic Bible Christianity” go through the basic teachings of the Bible. Completion of the courses prepares someone to become a member of our congregation. It is also a great refresher for current members. Invite a friend to join you on these four Saturdays. Meet at Beautiful Savior Lutheran.

Voters Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 17 Voters meeting are available by the mailboxes.

Next voters meeting is Sunday, October 16

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Sunday, August 28, Iowa Cubs vs. St. Paul Saints at 1:08 pm. Go to the late worship service in your baseball attire and then go to the game. \$8 per person. Age 3 and younger don’t need a ticket. Money will be collected closer to the date of the game. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Outreach Updates

Zach Bacon recently updated our social media presence.

Our social platforms are listed below for your reference:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMua80WhNDV70BltEZNkUsg>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/beautifulsaviorwdsm>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/beautifulsaviorlutheranc/>
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@beautifulsaviorlutheran?lang=en>

Acknowledgments

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A unique feature of Luke’s Gospel is the section in the middle often called “the travel narrative.” This lengthy section began in chapter 9 when Luke told us that Jesus “resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (v. 51). While there are many events and side trips that occur during this travel narrative, Luke regularly stresses that nothing is going to dissuade Jesus from going to Jerusalem, where he will fulfill his life’s mission. Jesus was very focused. Jesus’ mission and the purpose of this journey was not to gain an earthly crown. Throughout this travel narrative, Jesus makes clear that this world was not his real home. He teaches that this world is not our real home either. Jesus is focused on heaven. His mission is to get us there by going to Jerusalem and making the ultimate sacrifice to pay for our sin. Nothing would stop him. “He set his face like flint,” Isaiah tells us (50:7). Jesus was focused. As we watch the focused actions of our Savior . . . as we focus carefully on his words . . . something wonderful happens. Jesus gives focus to our lives. We finally see things clearly: how to love our neighbor, the true purpose of worship, the blessing of prayer, what is treasure (and what is not). In this series, as Christ speaks to us through his Word, may he make us properly focused.

Focused Living Properly Values Earthly Wealth

Jesus wants focused followers. However, one of the things that can most easily get in the way of our focus is our earthly possessions. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus’ words so frequently focus his followers on wealth. Jesus’ followers don’t reject earthly wealth or despise it. They can be grateful for every good gift that comes from the hand of God. However, Jesus’ followers value earthly wealth correctly. They understand what earthly wealth can and cannot do. They don’t give earthly wealth a role in their lives it will never be able to fill. This week we focus on the fact that the identity and security earthly wealth can never provide is found fully and freely in Christ.