



## Picnics are awesome!

That's why we decided to have another one before summer runs out. This picnic will be right after the **9:30am outdoor worship service on August 26th**. This time it'll be in our own backyard. Please bring a dish to share and any outdoor games you would like to play. And chairs or blankets for seating. You are welcome to bring a friend and introduce them to our beautiful prayer path and the surrounding gardens.



### What's inside:

- VBS August 12-16
- Support VBS missions
- Lucille's birthday is Wednesday!
- Lots of Thank yous

### STAFF

Chad Czischke,  
Pastor  
Connie Gove,  
Office Secretary  
Cindy Leonard,  
Instrumentalist  
Christine Scheid,  
Choir Director  
Greg Gove  
Custodian

### CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Volovsek,  
President  
John Bantari,  
Vice-President  
Teri Zupancich,  
Council Secretary  
Karen Heinecke,  
Treasurer  
Patty Long,  
Financial Secretary  
Dave Hayenga,  
Bd. of Trustees  
Al Neuendorf,  
Bd. of Elders  
Jan Gavin,  
Bd. of Education  
Debbie Alms,  
Bd. of Outreach  
Sue Hanson,  
Bd. of Stewardship

Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
285 County Road E  
Houlton, Wisconsin 54082  
(715)549-6140

E-mail: [focoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:focoffice@yahoo.com)  
[www.familyofchristhudson.org](http://www.familyofchristhudson.org)  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

#### Sunday~

9:30 a.m.—Worship w/Communion  
10:30 a.m.—Refreshments & Fellowship  
11:00 a.m.—Education Hour for All Ages;  
September—May  
Sunday School (age 3—Grade 5)  
Youth Group (Grades 6—12)  
Adult Bible Class

#### Wednesday~

5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class (Grades 6-8)  
6:30 p.m.—Worship w/Communion  
7:15 p.m.—Choir (Sept. - May)

### Our Mission Statement...

We are Christ's family, joined to him and to one another (Eph. 2:19-22, 4:16; 1 Cor. 12:27; John 15:5-8). In following the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing his love with others (Matt. 28:18-20);

- 1) We are committed to learning, living and teaching the Word.
- 2) We are committed to seeking the need for God in each other.
- 3) We are committed to celebrating His presence in our lives.
- 4) We are committed to reaching out to touch the lives of others with God's love.

**Newsletter Articles Must be Submitted by the 22nd of each Month**



Dear Members,

A recent song by Crowder is titled "All my Hope". The chorus, "All my hope is in Jesus, thank God my yesterdays gone. All my sins are forgiven. I've been washed by the blood." This song hits home in many ways, because far too often I think back to things I have done in my past, or even yesterday that go against God's Word or Commands. An issue develops if I cannot release those things, because it creates grudges against others, or a feeling of being unworthy. Either result prevents something so fabulous that it actually leads to unnecessary suffering.

The unnecessary suffering is explained in the chorus of the song discussed above. We suffer greatly when we forget that our hope is in Jesus, that the sins of our past have been forgiven, and that we have been washed in the blood of Jesus. Maybe we should focus there for a second. What does it mean to be washed in the blood of Jesus?

When we as Christians recognize that Jesus took on a great deal of suffering, pain, agony, and went to the cross for us, we also must recognize that something completely wonderful took place. As Jesus hung on the cross, His blood ran down. As His blood ran down, not only did it cleanse us as it flowed, but it cleansed all of creation as it touched the ground beneath Him. Through His blood, the final sacrifice; Jesus paid the price for all of your yesterdays, sins, and failures. You are REDEEMED!!!!

Therefore, as I think about that, and listen to the song, I focus on the fact that I am redeemed, yet, I still struggle with the question: what if I am not enough? What if all that I have done is not enough when I get to heaven? What if I stand before the throne of God, and I hear the words you were not a faithful servant, because you did not do enough? What if God looks at me and says, "I have no time for you because you had no time for me? What if????

See what doubt causes! See what failures lead too! See what focusing on the past creates! It creates issues with salvation. Yet, the truth is that there is not an issue with salvation. Salvation is sealed in the blood that flowed from Christ on the Cross. It is sealed in Christ's last words, "it is finished."

Yesterday is gone, but today is another story. However, how can we focus on what God has called us into today if we are focused on what we did yesterday, last week, last year, or decades ago? The truth is that we can't, and it is a tactic of the devil to keep us suffering in the wrong way. When the devil keeps us in the midst of failure, then we cannot focus on our faith, our calling, or the truth.

The truth is that through faith in Jesus, which is backed by His suffering, death, and resurrection, salvation is guaranteed. Neither you nor I need to worry about our salvation, our shortcomings, or the things that we fail to do! All we need to do is wake up in the morning and say a little prayer. Regardless, of what time of day it is, stop for a second,



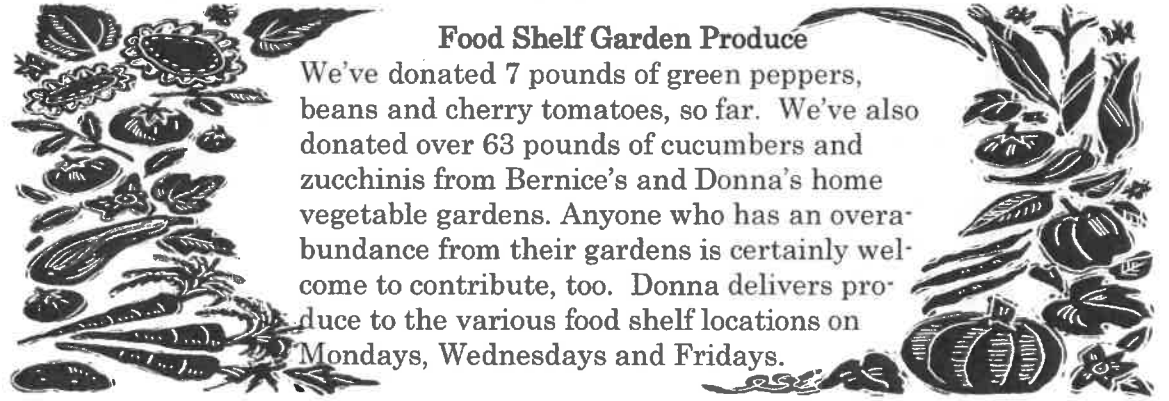
(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

and pray with me, "Dear God, You are my hope, You have sealed my salvation through the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ. Because He died, He paid the price for all of my sins, and not only cleansed me with His blood; He REDEEMED me in His blood. Therefore, I know that salvation is mine through Him and Him alone. In that knowledge fill me with the desires of Your heart, and guide me today to share the good news with myself and everyone I come into contact with. Keep me from doubt, and secure me on solid ground, that ground being Jesus Christ, my Life and my Salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen"

Now pick up yourself and walk! Your sins have been forgiven through the blood of Jesus. Remember that gift is yours forever. Not a free gift to do whatever you want, but a saving act for when you sin. In that moment turn to Jesus, repent of your sin, and remember His blood has now cleansed you. Release it, live in Jesus' peace and comfort, and go forth a forgiven and redeemed child of God.

Blessings on the rest of your summer. Stay safe and live FORGIVEN and REDEEMED.

Pastor Chad

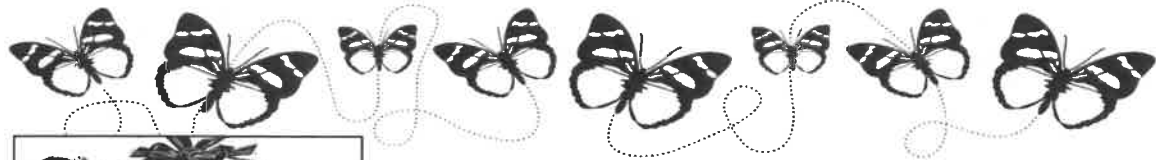


### Food Shelf Garden Produce

We've donated 7 pounds of green peppers, beans and cherry tomatoes, so far. We've also donated over 63 pounds of cucumbers and zucchinis from Bernice's and Donna's home vegetable gardens. Anyone who has an overabundance from their gardens is certainly welcome to contribute, too. Donna delivers produce to the various food shelf locations on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Dean and Susie Nadasdy cordially invite you to attend a Service of Farewell and Thanksgiving as Dean retires from fulltime pastoral ministry. The service will be held on **Sunday, August 19, 4:00P, at Woodbury Lutheran Church, Valley Creek Campus, 7380 Afton Road, Woodbury, MN 55125.** Light refreshments will follow the service. Please send letters and cards to Debra Connolly at [debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org) or at Debra Connolly, Minnesota South District, 14301 Grand Avenue South, Burnsville, MN 55306.



- 1 ~ Lucille Spinden
- 3 ~ Mark Brown
- 5 ~ Delores Senrick
- 5 ~ Lauren Stolzman
- 6 ~ Ken Kniefkamp
- 7 ~ Barb Garden
- 9 ~ Bev Jacobs
- 9 ~ Joe Naber
- 9 ~ Brody Swenson
- 14 ~ Nancy Callender
- 16 ~ Nevaeh Tillman
- 17 ~ Connor Renn
- 18 ~ Chad Phillips
- 18 ~ Brett Schouten
- 22 ~ Sara Burton
- 23 ~ Jerry Daniels
- 25 ~ Becky Volovsek
- 26 ~ Anna Gunderson
- 26 ~ Jacob Heinecke
- 29 ~ Dave Lindstrom
- 30 ~ Kyle Long

*Dan & Susan Lindstrom*  
9 on the 15th

*Chad & Jen Czischke*  
13 on the 20th

*Dave & Lana Lindstrom*  
13 on the 20th

*Josh & Jolleen Nichols*  
14 on the 7th

*Jeff & Debbie Alms*  
16 on the 3rd

*Jeff & Becky Volovsek*  
18 on the 12th

*Jeff & Angie Brown*  
19 on the 7th

*Beth & Branden McDonald*  
20 on the 29th

*Dave & Laurie Sandquist*  
27 on the 23rd

*Mike & Tracy Renn*  
29 on the 12th

*Brian & Julie Coe*  
31 on the 8th

*Ken & Michelle Kniefkamp*  
34 on the 11th

*Les & Cheryl Sass*  
45 on the 18th

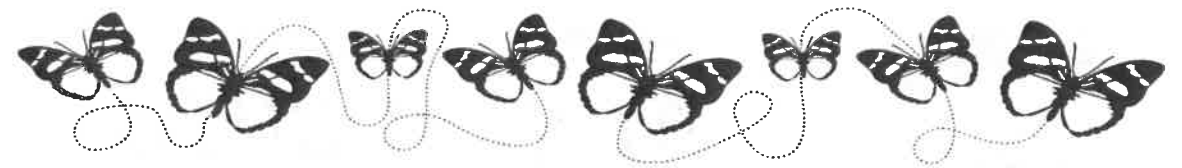
*Dean & Virginia Morrell*  
61 on the 17th

If your special day is missing or incorrect, please notify the office.



Lucille Spinden (Eleanor Smith's Mom) is having a birthday and turning 103 years old on Wednesday, August 1. The Hudson Christian Community Home located on 1320 Wisconsin St. is throwing a party for her at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday. You are all invited or Send her a card: Lucille Spinden, 1320 Wisconsin St., Room 343, Hudson, WI 54016. She will love it. Thank you God for Blessing Family of Christ with a beautiful God fearing lady.

**Beat the Christmas rush - come to church this Sunday.**




VBS is right around the corner beginning on Sun. Aug. 12 and concluding on Thurs. Aug. 16, 6-8 p.m. We will be SHIPWRECKED! (and rescued by Jesus!)... Can you imagine our church as a desert island?? Thanks to all who donated supplies - the list was extensive but we were blessed by your generosity and ready to ship out! Spread the word among your neighbors and friends, as there is always room for one more! Registration materials are on the table in the narthex. Plan to attend VBS closing time on Thurs. Aug. 16 at 7:40 p.m. as the kids share songs, mission projects and more fun with our church family.



VBS will once again support an international and a local mission. The details are fully explained in the Sunday worship insert on get a copy from the church office. Please bring your donations of coins and/or school supplies to church on Sun. Aug. 12 or by Wed. Aug. 15. Collection bins are in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

**Sunday school 2018 - 2019 will begin on Sunday, September 16.** Still needed are teachers for the 3rd - 5th grade class and one more person to lead a 6 - 7 - 8th grade class. Team teaching is our goal, so two teachers at every level are needed. The curriculum we use is very easy to use, and fun to teach as well. Please consider this opportunity to grow and share your faith. Contact Jan Gavin for more information - 612-618-3708.



**You Can Teach!**

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Bernice Lentz and Michelle Kniefkamp** for working so hard on cutting, spraying, bagging and burning some large areas of thistles around our church property. There is still more to be done and all are invited to help with this back-breaking, labor-intensive job anytime you might feel like doing a good deed. It will take several more of these sessions to complete this task but because of Bernice and Michelle's efforts we are well on our way to having control of these invasive weeds.

Also **Thank you to Bev Locke, Lori Swenson, Deb Rivard and Lana Lindstrom** for serving Grace Place the month of June. The month off is a wonderful treat. Any other group willing to Serve Grace Place the fourth Monday of any month please contact Sue Hanson at 715-441-0799. They are down to 40 people so not quite so daunting.



# August 2018

Family of Christ Lutheran Church



- Please note there is always the possibility of meetings and events being cancelled and/or added. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for changes.
- To have events and meetings included on this calendar page, they must be noted on the calendar in the office before the 22nd of every month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July 2018</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3	4
<b>5 Baptism - Loretta Elert</b> 8:00am ~ Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship	6	7 7:30pm ~ Outreach Mtg.	8	9 7:00pm ~ Board of Trustees	10	11
<b>12</b> 8:00am ~ Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship <i>(please stay to help move pews for VBS)</i> 6:00pm ~ VBS	<b>13</b> 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 6:00pm ~ VBS	<b>14</b> 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's) 6:00pm ~ VBS	<b>15</b> 6:00pm ~ VBS	<b>16</b> 6:00pm ~ VBS 8:00pm ~ move pews back	17	18
<b>19 Baptism - Beckett Gehring</b> 8:00am ~ Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship	<b>20</b> 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study 6:30pm ~ Board of Elders	21	<b>22</b> 6:30pm ~ Worship	<b>23</b> 6:30pm ~ Church Council	24	25
<b>26</b> 8:00am ~ Breakfast & Bible Study 9:30am ~ Outdoor Worship 11:00am ~ Picnic	<b>27</b> 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	<b>28</b> 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	<b>29</b> 6:30pm ~ Worship	30	31	<b>September 2018</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

Just a reminder that LWML will **NOT** be meeting during the week of VBS in August. We will resume our regular monthly schedule on the second Tuesday of each month again on **Tuesday, September 11th @ 7pm**. Our study will be taken from the Spring Lutheran Women's Quarterly (pages 20-22) "**Prayer Gives My Life Balance**" and ALL women are invited to join us for fellowship and Bible study as your schedule allows. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Bantari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261.

**Pill Bottle Donation CHANGES** The ongoing collection of plastic **prescription** bottles with plastic lids continues. We **NO longer** collect over-the-counter bottles of any size.

If you would like to contribute donations to assist in shipping costs to Matthew 25 Ministries or prescription bottles, they may be placed in the designated box located near the Sanctuary entrance. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**LWML MN South Convention Update** Delegates voted to set the MITE Mission Goal for 2018-2020 at **\$265,000**. \$198,750 (75%) will be available for the 13 Mission Grants selected during the convention and \$66,250 (25%) will be sent to the National LWML to fulfill that goal of \$2,075,000.

**LWML Fall Rally - Saturday, September 29th** Mark your calendars and watch for details & sign-up coming soon!

I'd like to thank you for sending me to the Minnesota South District Convention as the delegate from Family of Christ. It was a great experience.

It was fun to be with 325 Delegates and Pastors as a Community of Believers. The pastors were so fun and helpful, they get a let crazy when let out of their church zoos. I was able to attend a seminar on the Supreme Court ruling titled, "Trinity Lutheran Church". Basically it ruled that any school, Charter, Parochial, Public are entitled to receive Federal funding, equally, for each student attending. If you would like more information email [fred.hinz@mnsodistrict.org](mailto:fred.hinz@mnsodistrict.org). I also picked up a printout entitled, "How to Respond to the LGBT Movement." A very eye opening article that will help make since of what we hear on a daily basis.

There are also Convention Resolutions that we voted upon. There are 6 Committees that develop about 7 resolutions in various categories. The most interesting was: "God created

the world in six days, with a seventh day for rest, each day consisting of 24 hours. Holy Scripture is inspired by God the Holy Spirit and is without error and infallible. Holy Scripture teaches the historical event of the creation of the first man, Adam, who was made in the image of God and that death came into the world as the consequence of his sin." It is assumed that it passes to reaffirm what the Lutheran Church Missouri believes. This is not the belief of all Synods in the Luther church.

The most amazing, glorious experience was the Worship service the first night. 12 Pastors in their robes and 4 acolytes processing the cross of Christ as 400 voices sang "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" with true joy and praise, accompanied by an organ and brass quartet. It sounded like the Heavenly angels praising God. I was so excited to sing, "This is the Feast" Liturgy 1 and ending with, "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" It was definitely awe inspiring. Thank you for an amazing experience. ~ Sue Hanson



**Cash Flow Statement**

	<u>June 30</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income – donations	\$ 11,627.89	\$ 97,733.06
Building fund donations	1,380.00	7,137.38
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	<u>200.00</u>	<u>625.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 13,207.89	\$107,941.84
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	<u>\$ -15,098.67</u>	<u>\$ -104,144.24</u>
Net income	\$ -1,890.78	\$ 3,797.60
Less principal loan payments	<u>\$ -1,726.78</u>	<u>\$ -10,253.78</u>
Balance	\$ -3,617.56	\$ -6,456.18
Building loan balance 1/1/18	\$437,487.04	
Total principal payments year to date	<u>-10,253.78</u>	
Loan balance 6/30/18	\$427,233.26	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 6/30/18		
General checking	5,113.89	
Unrestricted savings	<u>2,356.72</u>	
	7,470.61	
Restricted savings	86,695.98	

Full financial statements are available in the Church office and a copy is on the bulletin board. Karen Heinecke, treasurer

**Rev. Jon Vollrath, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota, MN, is hosting 13 Days...Holy Land and Jordan Pilgrimage on November 4-16, 2019.** Bruce Wurdeman, Emeritus Executive Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries will be your guidance and insight into the pilgrimage. This Holy Land Pilgrimage is extra special this time. Special sites in Jordan are also included - Mt. Nebo, Petra, the area of the port city of Solomon on the Gulf of Aquaba.

At the end of August, Rev. Vollrath could have a Trans World Travel agent visit our area. If you would like this special presentation for yourself and others, please let him know as soon as possible in order to verify the agent's ability to present and answer questions at that time. [pastorjonvollrath@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjonvollrath@yahoo.com) or 507-272-3104

**A Spiritual Journey of Discovery and Enlightenment through Germany May 15-26, 2020.** The tour host is Rev. Greg Heidorn, Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN. Please check the bulletin board for further information. Please note the tour deposit is due by August 15, 2018 - Space is limited!

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"I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the drop below him was more than a thousand feet, and he couldn't hang on to the branch forever.

So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear and lower a rope or do something.

"Help! Help! Is anyone up there? Help!"

Jack yelled. No one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice, "Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"No! Yes! But, who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean GOD?"

"That's me."

"Oh, God, please help me! I promise that if You get me down from here, I'll really be a good person. I'll go back to church and serve you for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said, let go of the branch. Trust me. Let go."

There was a long silence.

Finally Jack yelled, "Help! Help! Help! Is there anyone else up there?"

So live that no matter what happens, it wouldn't happen to a nicer person.

God so loved the world that He did not send a committee.

Fight truth decay - Read the Bible.

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows for U-turns.

- Some go to church to take a walk;
- Some go there to laugh and talk;
- Some go there to meet a friend;
- Some go there their time to spend;
- Some go there to meet a lover;
- Some go there a fault to cover;
- Some go there for speculation;
- Some go there for observation;
- Some go there to doze and nod;
- The wise go there to worship God.



When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3).

And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the Gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us.

We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Gal. 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since

we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy - in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us.

For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors - your family, your friends, your community, your church.