

# New Hope Lutheran Church

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## Pastors:

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**September 25, 2022**

*The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

## Coming Events

Sept 27 2:00 Kammari **Impola Rm**

Kammari starts with a Bible study from 2-2.30pm and continues from 2.30pm on with a coffee and pulla (2\$). You can come and have a coffee, even if you are not attending the Bible study. Welcome all to have coffee and meet friends!

Sept 28 10 – 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St.**

Sept 30 **Hannah Lake's Event**

6:00 Supper & Bonfire **Hannah Lake**  
Tickets \$5

Please reserve or purchase tickets in Advance from Allan (705) 691-5767

Oct 2 10:00 Finnish Worship Service † **Voima Hall**  
2:00 Lay English Worship Service **Regent St**

**In our prayers** Eero, Ron, Ruth, Marilyn.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Psalm 113

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul.  
<sup>3</sup> I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.  
<sup>4</sup> Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.  
<sup>5</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.  
<sup>7</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever.  
<sup>8</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free,  
<sup>9</sup> the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

## First Reading “Amos 6:1a, 4 – 7”

- <sup>1</sup> Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria.  
<sup>4</sup> You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. <sup>5</sup> You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. <sup>6</sup> You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

## Second Reading “1 Timothy 6:6 – 19”

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. <sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. <sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel “Luke 16:19 – 31”

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was*

*laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' " "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "*

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
**Sermon***

*By Rev. Charles Nolting  
"God is Global"*

If you look at the lessons for today, you may notice there is one major theme to be found. Our reading from Amos announces that great wealth is not a cause for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The psalm talks about the oppressed needing justice. In the epistle lesson Timothy is reminded of his baptism and what it means to be a Christian. His priorities are to be different from those of people who merely want to be

rich. And our gospel lesson talks about the poor (like Lazarus) being lifted up and the rich man is "sent away empty".

### **Maybe we aren't wealthy**

All this might lead us to believe then that to be wealthy is nothing more than the road to eternal damnation. It wouldn't surprise me to find out that we were raised to think that way. Wealth is bad. And so, to appease any guilt, what many have done is to convince themselves that they are not wealthy.

And it's very easy to do, isn't it? You know, convince ourselves that we aren't wealthy. All we have to do is to look around our own neighborhoods and we can easily find others who have more than we do. They have nicer stuff, they have newer stuff, they have more stuff in general. And if they appear better off than we are, well then, we must be the poor. And everyone knows that the poor are welcome in God's sight.

Unfortunately for most in Canada, it really is an illusion that we allow ourselves so that we feel better about ourselves. We convince ourselves that what we see and experience is what God sees, and forget that God sees everything in the world: the refugees, the malnourished, the oppressed, the thirsty, the unemployed. God sees those globally who have no homes, no cars, no jobs, no opportunities, no education. God sees how ¾ of the world is so much worse off than we are. We forget that God is global and God sees everything everywhere, not just in our neighborhoods.

We, on the other hand, for the most part, don't see it, or refuse to see that we are some of the wealthiest people in the world. Food is always available. Fresh water is almost overwhelming us. Our homes are generally warm and dry. There are opportunities for employment even if we don't care for some of them. We have a health care system in place. We live in peaceable times. I'm sure there are those in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries

that would be asking, "*what more do you want?*" How can you not be content?

### **What are the lessons really pointing to?**

And that question gets to the crux of today's lessons. You see, while we may have thought that wealth by itself is evil, that's not really what the lessons are pointing to. The lessons are **not saying** that everybody should be poor – or convince themselves they are poor in order to feel better.

Instead, the lessons point to what wealth tempts us to do and often convinces us of doing. Too often the pursuit of wealth and what it can buy becomes addictive. We get some and we want more. It's called greed, and as I'm sure we're aware, greed is destructive. I'm pretty sure that every time the stock market goes belly up causing financial chaos and economic disaster, there was greed behind it somewhere. People who have vast amounts of money want more.

Wealth becomes problematic when we see it as our own possession, and feel that the only reason we are doing well in life is because we did the planning, the work and maybe we got lucky. When we see our wealth only as a result of our own efforts, we're headed for trouble. The first thing we start to do is feel that we then should spend it only on ourselves. We get the mentality of little children; the ones who claw at their pile of toys screaming, "*its mine! It's mine!*" And *nobody is going to take it away from me!* Its not a pretty picture, is it?

### **Seeing God as the Provider**

And that's why it's important to see God as the provider of our wealth. When we see wealth only as our own, (belonging only to us), we tend to collect things, leading into idolatry and away from Christ. And it can be as simple as the rich man putting his fine clothes and sumptuous food ahead of any thought of Lazarus outside his own gate.

This is probably the reason God always encourages us to give to the poor, to tithe to the church, and to look after those who have so much less. It levels the playing field, gives us a sense of real worth, and actually helps us to more effectively proclaim the gospel. To simply tell a homeless person that God loves them does nothing to inspire faith in others. To give money to someone helps, but to provide them with a way of making their own living is to show our faith in action and to show that God really does care, and that our faith matters to us.

### **God Gives – We Are Responsible**

When we understand that God is the one who gives us jobs and opportunities, we see our wealth in a different light. It's something that has been entrusted to us, and to be used in ways that would be approved by the one who trusted them to us. If we want a comparison, think about our forefathers here in Canada. I think they would tell us that we have more than enough – and why isn't God acknowledged?

Understanding that God is the provider and we are stewards of that wealth, we can begin to comprehend just what might be expected of us; that our wealth is a responsibility to be used for God's purposes. It isn't that God's purposes mean we can't have a decent home, or lifestyle, but they do call us to be responsible with what we have been given.

Today's lessons point out that those who have wealth, if they are to enjoy it in a healthy way, they give some away. In the biblical sense, wealth is a great responsibility. It is not ours to do with as we please, instead it is to be used to advance the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Think of it like a doctor who has wonderful medical skills, but only uses them for their own family. I think we would call that a waste of talent.

These lessons are not against having wealth, they are about **how we use it**. First of all, we need to

understand that, regardless of what we may have thought in the past, we do live at a standard that the poor would find overwhelming. Then we have to consider where our wealth really comes from. Lastly we need to consider just what we are doing with our wealth as stewards of it, remembering that God not only sees our neighborhood, but that God sees and cares globally. Amen.

### **Prayers**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us

and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**