

A photograph of two wind turbines against a bright orange sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong glow and silhouetting the turbines. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**I have seen all the things
that are done under the sun;
all of them are meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.**

Ecclesiastes 1:14 NIV

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

*Pastor Andrew Bauer
(847) 438-5018*

www.newlife-wels.org

+++++

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Father in heaven, I pray that You would refresh my mind and soul today, so that I may enjoy the work I am assigned to do. Sometimes I feel tired, weary and bored in the mundane tasks of this life and my career. I know You have placed me here, in this season of my life for a purpose. I know there is nothing better than enjoying what I do and finding happiness withing the work You have given me to do. I pray that You would help me find joy, contentment and enthusiasm for my tasks and responsibilities each day. I am powerless to make my life happy or my labor successful by myself. These things come only from Your gracious hand. Father, I thank You in advance for Your blessings. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

Today's Theme: **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION -- ON USEFUL RESOURCES**

Money. Possessions. Perhaps more than anything else, those things have the power to turn our attention away from what is truly important. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus frequently teaches about wealth. Christ wants us to understand that it is our heavenly Father who provides us with those useful resources. But we need to know why our Father gives them: what they are useful for, and what they are *not* useful for. Those resources cannot give purpose of meaning to our lives on earth. They cannot give us security for life after this earth. However, the blessings God provides can bring some joy to our lives. More importantly, our wealth is extremely useful in our efforts to serve God and others. This week let us give our undivided attention to what Christ says about the useful resources our gracious Father provides to us.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 807 “All Depends on Our Possessing” (CW93 421)

Invocation

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Opening Sentences Psalm 24:1–2; 127:2; 147:9; Matthew 6:26; James 1:17; Exodus 20:3;
Colossians 3:5–6

P: The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

C: He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

P: Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

C: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.

P: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

C: The First Commandment reminds us, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

P: Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

C: On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

Confession and Absolution

P: Almighty God,

C: You are the giver of everything we have. Yet, we are guilty of coveting the possessions, experiences, and social standing of others. We sin by valuing these things above You. For Jesus’ sake, forgive our sins. Renew us in Your knowledge and conform us to Your image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God’s forgiveness because of Jesus. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

(Sing as much of the Gloria as you like.)



Verse 1:

Your are God; we praise You. You are Lord; we acclaim You. You are God eternal; all creation worships You.

Refrain:

Verse 2:

All the angels in the heavens chant Your praise in endless song! Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might.

Refrain:

Verse 3:

The apostles all praise You. All the prophets acclaim You. All the martyrs and Your faithful people worship You.

Refrain:

Verse 4:

God, Creator, we praise You. Jesus the Christ we adore You. Spirit of the Living God, we worship You.

Refrain:

The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, You are the giver of all that we have, including all that we are. We praise and thank You for blessing us with family, friends, opportunities, jobs, and possessions. Guide us to be good stewards of all You generously give to us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14;2:18-26** – King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest man who ever lived, learned by experience the limited value of earthly possessions.

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² "Meaningless! Meaningless!"

says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless."

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

1 We live, O Lord, with - in your grace, for you have
2 A thou - sand years with - in your sight pass like a
3 You say to chil - dren of the earth: "Re - turn to
4 The fu - ry of your wrath dis - may! Your light our

been our dwell - ing place; be - fore the moun - tains came to
watch with - in the night, like yes - ter - day when it is
dust, which gave you birth!" We grow like grass be - neath the
se - cret sin dis - plays! Our years are mea - sured by our

be, you are true God e - ter - nal - ly.
through, the brief - est blink in all you view.
sun, but with - er when our day is done.
strength, yet toil and trou - ble is their length!

5 So teach us, Lord, to count our days;
make wise our hearts to seek your ways.
How long, O LORD, till you return?
How much, O LORD, for you we yearn!

6 Your steadfast love will satisfy
and be our joy until we die.
Though evil days may grieve our soul,
we trust that you will make us whole.

7 Lord, let your work to us be shown,
your glory by our children known.
Your favor rest on us each day;
establish all our work, we pray.

8 O Father, Son, and Spirit, be
our dwelling place eternally,
and when the mountains are no more,
your name we ever will adore!

Epistle Lesson: **Colossians 3:1-11** – Believers are liberated from the idolatry of greed as they put to death their sinful nature and are renewed in their new life in Christ.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Alleluia! (Matthew 6:20,21)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **Luke 12:13-21** – Greed’s folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And He told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 753** “My Worth Is Not in What I Own”

The Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

Hebrews 13:20–21

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 717 "What Is the World to Me" (CW93 477)

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Bauer / Spangle

Today— Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Monday—Church Council at 7:00 PM

Tuesday—Preschool Orientation meeting at 6:30 PM

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers June 2025 through September 2025.

RETIREMENT

Pastor Bauer has announced that he will retire at the end of August. His last Sunday at New Life will be August 31.

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The church council has approved the use of our building on Saturday morning for a Ukrainian Language School. The school will begin in the fall.

CHURCH SIGN

Work is currently being done with the village to obtain a permit for the sign.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, July 27th we have received \$10,042 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$9,180 behind the budget. We have received \$225 in offerings for VBS, and an additional \$250 for the sign fund.

FAREWELL BRUNCH

The Branch Connection will serve a farewell brunch for Pastor Bauer on his last Sunday, August 31. The brunch will begin after the Sunday service.

GUEST PREACHER / INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES PRESENTATION

Rev. Phil Henslin will come to guest preach at New Life on Sunday, August 17. Phil was associated with Institutional Ministries as a Board Member in 2014 before accepting the call to be Executive Director in 2016. He oversees all aspects of the ministry and reports quarterly to the Board of Directors. He takes the time to meet with donors and foundations, guides the chaplains as needed, oversees the email devotion ministry (GraceLinks), and works closely with all office personnel who are the "arms and legs" behind the scenes for our chaplains. Whenever possible, he enjoys visiting congregations and schools, explaining the vast reach of this ministry. Phil will conduct the service and also offer a presentation on Institutional Ministries after the service.