

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Pentecost 8C, Sunday, August 3, 2025



"Take Care! Be on Guard"

If you read carefully the encounters people have with Jesus, they are usually asking to fix a problem which has little to do with the things of God. In our lesson this week there is a family dispute over an inheritance. An inheritance is never a given, it is a gift designated by the one who has something left to give after they die. Many of us have sadly encountered division within our families over the fairness of such inheritances. Jesus uses this worldly concern as an opportunity to teach a lesson on the dangers of all kinds of greed, and the truth that one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. How hard it is to learn this eternal truth.



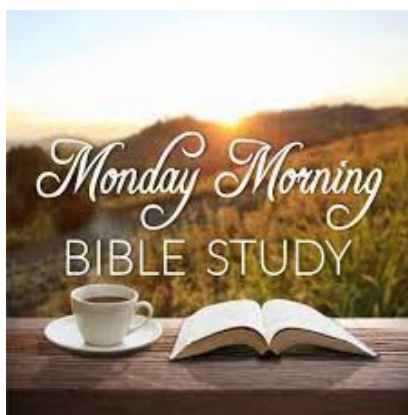
Please Join the Hospitality Team this morning between services to formally say thanks and good-bye to Intern Kevin Anderson, Erin, Reese, and Miles. Kevin will become Pastor Kevin Anderson on August 6 and begin serving Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Mesa mid-August.

Kevin Anderson's Ordination!



Kevin Anderson has been called to serve as pastor at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona. His Ordination service will be at **Love of Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, August 6th at 1:30PM**. The service will be held in the sanctuary with a light reception following the service in the Center of Compassion.

All are welcome to attend.



**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room,
10:30-Coffee, 11:00 Bible Study**



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



Stranger

*Wanting to vindicate himself,
he asked Jesus, “**And who is my neighbor?**”*
—Luke 10.29

God is universally kind,
even, Jesus says, to the ungrateful and the wicked.

God asks us to love our neighbors.
Wanting to protect ourselves, we ask:
Who are our neighbors?
Meaning, of course: Who aren't?

In Jesus' parable the neighbor is the stranger, the outsider.
The Hebrew Bible says in one verse to love your neighbor—
and 36 times—36 times— it says to love the stranger.
Because you yourselves are strangers, not insiders.

Don't look for “something to love” in one who is different.
Love them.

Love is not latching on to what we have in common,
or making us alike in some way,
but honoring one who is different.

Allowing them to stay different.
Honoring their being, not their condition.
Seeing God's image in one who is unlike you.

Because they are God's,
who is infinite,
and whose image in us is therefore of infinite variety,
and who loves us
who are so different from God,
who is “one of us,”
and also not.

Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes



By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History
New Adult Study Starting Wednesday, September 3, 6-7PM
in the Fellowship Hall

Who are we?
 Who is in and who is out?
 Can we participate in civic life?
 Who is Jesus?
 How do we know if our lives are in line with what Jesus taught?
 How much diversity can we tolerate?
 Who leads us? In worship? In community life? In teaching? (As any kindergartner will ask: "Why do you get to be the boss of me?")
 How do we fund our community?
 Does it matter how we live? How do we relate to the world around us—people and creation?
 What do we do with the holy writings of the Jewish community?
 Do we need to have scriptures of our own?
 What do we do with people who leave the church in fear or anger, and then want to come back?

Isn't it amazing how familiar these questions sound! These were the questions that needed to be answered in the first centuries of the church. Since Jesus didn't return as quickly as believers assumed, they had to figure out how to live as believers in their world. That the church is still alive after all these years is a testament to God's faithfulness and patience and gives us courage to wrestle with these and similar questions today.

We invite you to enter this series to see how the drama of the early church's formation has direct connections to your life of faith today.

Next Naomi Circle Bible Study ~ August 11th, 2025. See you then.....



Sympathy & Comfort to:

✠ Eleanor Tracht, family & friends, upon the death of her husband, Larry.

Please keep them in your prayers.



This Sunday we welcome into the family of God through Holy Baptism
Annabelle Christine Calvo.
Blessings to you on this special day.

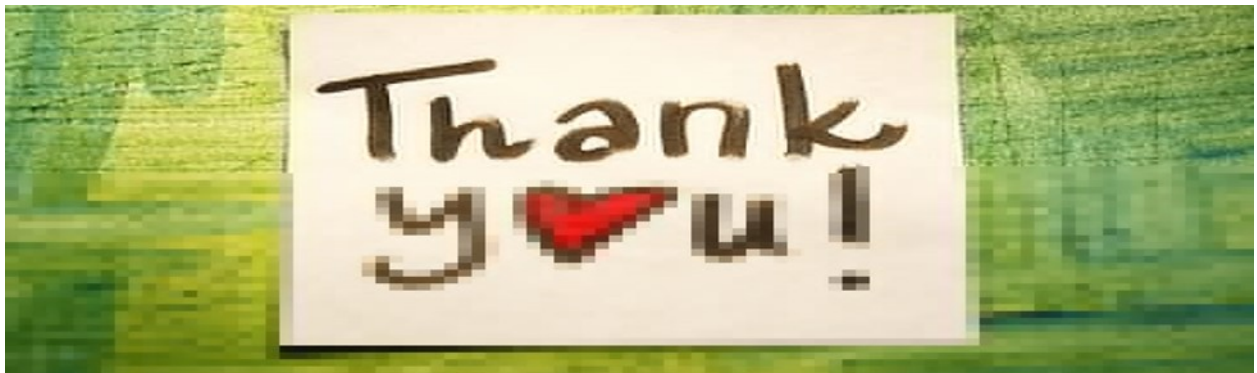


Mark your Calendars!

Donations for this summer:

Resurrection Street Ministry is collecting for sack lunches:
Small bags of chips (any kind) fruit cups, soft chewy granola bars, and protein packs of tuna and chicken, and Capri Sun any flavor

Company is Coming: Family Promise arrives Aug. 3-10!



Love of Christ Faith Community! Thank You! For all of your donations!

Clothes for Kids: We had an amazing response to our Kids Clothing drive! Over 96 tags were taken and 96 children will receive a new outfit for school! These clothes are being donated to Lutheran Social Services and they will distribute the clothes.

Water Donations: This year for water donations we are asking for money donations. This way Resurrection Street Ministry and Grace in the City can buy the water cheaper by being able to purchase palate by palate. If you are interested in helping those who are experiencing homelessness through the hot summers, please donate online or place in the offering plate labeled "for water". Donation envelopes available.

Volunteer Opportunities At Resurrection Street Ministries

The LOC community last summer started working with Resurrection Street Ministry located at Stapley and Main in Mesa, donating water to their heat respite center. This year, the Faith in Action team is planning to expand our involvement with their community, increasing our donations to include water, shelf-staple lunches, snacks, items for their respite center, and volunteer coordination to help with meals and other ser-

vices.

Resurrection Street Ministry (RSM) heat respite center coordinates with the city of Mesa, has opened and is operating from 9:30 a.m to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Guests can get out of the heat, have lunch and snacks, take showers, and do laundry. The facility accepts pets, and has a system to secure bicycles. RSM is also home to a thrift shop and food pantry.

We are seeking volunteers as described below.

We have extended our plans to help Resurrected Street Ministries every Friday for the month of August. Thank you for your generosity in kind and donations! These duties may include talking to visitors to answer questions or just visiting with them, escorting them to various areas of the facility, including lunch, showers and laundry, cots where they can sleep. We are planning to provide and pass out snacks to the visitors as well as help prepare and serve food.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Melissa Riner at Melissa@azfls.com or call 602.363.6003

If you are interested in pre-making meals to take on our Friday and/or assisting with the prep and service at the facility please contact Cindy at cgeorgen3199@gmail.com

If you have questions about donations, please call Patti at pattidelaney03@gmail.com
We will keep you posted as we learn and grow in this ministry, and appreciate all questions, volunteer help, and donations.

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Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has started to help with a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children. Along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com



August 3-10 Family Promise—Company is Coming! Family Promise is an organization who helps families stay off the streets and empowers them in finding jobs and housing. We will be hosting families who are experiencing homelessness. We will need to bring in meals, a welcomer, and someone to spend the night. Please contact the following people if you would like more information or are interested in serving:

Setting up: Rhonda Vaglio and Carol Mosely (rvaglio128@gmail.com clmoseley@gmail.com)

Dinners: Patti Delaney (pattidelaney03@gmail.com)

Hosting: Jackie Rensel (Jackie.rensel@icloud.com)

Overnight: Dave Dohrmann (dave@dohrmann.org)

About Family Promise

In Operation since 2000, Family Promise – Greater Phoenix has provided more than just shelter for families. For the past 19 years, the programs at Family Promise have helped more than 500 families. These programs have enabled families to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The Family Promise Mission is providing emergency shelter and social services to help families move toward independent housing and self-sufficiency.

Vision:

The Vision of Family Promise is a community of whole and healthy families.

At Family Promise, we give families the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. We strive to provide a safety net for children and their families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, loss of school attendance, unemployment, family instability and foster care.

Family Promise provides basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, but we also provide a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and create a sense of community for the families that participate in the program, and the thousands of volunteers that have contributed to this program over the years.

The Faith In Action Team

Some of you might be wondering what the Faith In Action Team does and how do they decide on which organizations to help. Here are the guidelines that the Faith in Action Team uses when determining which organizations to help.

Faith in Action Team Guidelines

The Faith in Action team serves as a bridge between our church community and the wider world, discerning how best to support the ELCA and Christ-centered ministries through financial gifts, donations, and volunteer efforts. These guidelines ensure that the team's efforts align with our faith, values, and mission.

The following guidelines will be used when determining support for a ministry:

- 1. The Impact on the Recipients:** Who will be receiving the donation and how will it be used to address critical needs such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, and spiritual growth. Will this gift provide dignity, empowerment, and long-term benefits for recipients.
- 2. Impact on Our Church Community and our neighbors.** (World, National, State,

and Local) The project/ministry should reflect and enhance our congregation's commitment to living out the gospel of Jesus Christ and fit within the mission of the ELCA. Regular updates, testimonies, or success stories from the project are encouraged to inspire the congregation and how their support is making a difference.

3. **How Can We support this ministry (meaning money, donations in kind, time, talent)** will it provide opportunities for hands-on involvement where possible, enabling members of our church community to serve directly. Are clear communications about the roles, time commitment, and training required for volunteers provided.

4. **Does the organization have a belief of "love your neighbor"?** Meaning, does the ministry reflect the teachings and mission of Jesus Christ. And does the ministry demonstrate God's love and grace through acts of compassion, justice and service.

Follow -Up- We are asking that the volunteer provide a video or enews follow-up. The Faith In Action Team will use these guidelines to reflect our commitment to be Christ's hands and feet in the world, demonstrating faith through action while strengthening our own faith community. It is our hope and prayer that we can best serve as God's instruments of love and transformation.

Here are the Outreach Ministries of our Love of Christ Community:

Preschool: Sarah Margalis (Preschool Director)

LSS-SW Co-Sponsorship: Chris Norden

Cookie Ministry: Eunice Ketterling

Feed My Starving Children: Mark Christofferson

Hospitality: Patti Delaney

Resurrection Street Ministry: Melissa Riner, Cindy Wallin, Patti Delaney

Lutheran Food Bank: Jackie Rensel (delivers food to Victory Lutheran Food Bank and First Evangelical Lutheran Church) Barb Carlson volunteer

Community Garden: Nancy Tollefson

ELCA Good Gifts/ELCA World Hunger: Elizabeth Danielson

God's Work Our Hands: Faith In Action Team

Backpacks: Pat Shaw La Mesita's Family Shelter **Falken Hill ES and Salk ES-** (VBS Backpack drive)

Clothes for Kids: Rhonda Vaglio Donation to Lutheran Social Services for Refugee children

Family Promise: Jackie Rensel, Dave Dohrmann, Patti Delaney, Carol Moseley and Rhonda Vaglio

Advent Reverse Boxes: Jake & Rebecca Solomon and Jack & JoAnn Grant

Christmas Gifts: Partner with Salk and Wilson ES Pastor Nanette and Mason Weatherly

Sleep In Heavenly Peace: Jack and JoAnn Grant

Blessing Bags: Jackie Rensel and Barb Carlson VBS kids put together

WoW Cooks: Dianne Oien

WoW: Combination of Jung, Georgia Gannon, Brooke Osterman, Mason Weatherly, and the Pastors

Vacation Bible School: Erin Anderson/ Laura Ontiveros

Water for Respite at Grace in the City and for Mesa Respite: money donations from congregation

LAMA: (Lutheran Advocacy Movement in AZ) Focus is on food for those experiencing Food insecurities: Al Gjersvig, Elizabeth Danielson (Lutheran Day at the Legislature)

Matthew 25 Prison Ministry: Ruth Clemenson (Women's Prison Pen Pal Ministry)

House of Refuge: Lenten Donations

Red Mountain Community College: Lenten Donations

Lutheran Campus Ministries: Lenten Donations

Alice Cooper's Youth Ministries: Vic Olmedo

Together in Service: Mesa 5013c organizations come together to learn how to best help each other.

Faith In Action Team: Patti Delaney, Melissa Riner, Cindy Wallin, Al Gjersvig, Elizabeth Danielson, Jake Solomon, Rebecca Solomon, Vic Olmedo, Amy Olmedo, Jack and JoAnn Grant, Pastor Nanette



Sunday School will resume on August 17!

Food, Fun, and Faith for grades 4, 5, and 6 will resume on Sunday, September 28 at 4:30 pm.



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study meets once a month in the summer.



Our last summer date for Prayer Share Care is August 14. Beginning in September, we will meet twice a month on Sept. 4 and 18 and in October on the 9th and 23rd. Each session will meet in the Leadership Room at 1:00 and we will be doing a book study by Joan Chittister, "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully". We hope you can join us.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org



There is NO Sunday Hangout or Youth Group this week, as Family Promise will be here.

We will return to Sunday Hangout Sunday, August 10th and Youth Group Wednesday, August 13th.

Confirmation will begin Wednesday, September 3rd!

Love of Christ Youth Fall 2025 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, Sunday Hangout is from 10-noon, Youth Group 6-7:30 pm, and Chick-Fil-A after Youth Group until 8:30. Other events listed will have more details.

August

- 10: Sunday Hangout
- 13: **Youth Group Restarts!**
- 17: Sunday Hangout
- 20: Youth Group
- 24: Sunday Hangout
- 27: Youth Group/**High School Chick-fil-A Night**
- 31: Sunday Hangout

September

- 3: Youth Group/**Confirmation Starts!**
- 7: Sunday Hangout
- 10: Youth Group
- 14: Sunday Hangout
- 17: Youth Group/**Confirmation**
- 21: Sunday Hangout
- 24: Youth Group/**High School Chick-fil-A Night**
- 28: Sunday Hangout

October

- 1: Youth Group/**Confirmation**
- 5-11: Fall Break!

- 12: Sunday Hangout
- 15: Youth Group/**Confirmation**
- 19: Sunday Hangout
- 22: Youth Group
- 24: Fall Festival
- 26: Sunday Hangout
- 29: Youth Group/**Confirmation/High School Chick-fil-A Night**

November

- 2: Sunday Hangout
- 5: Youth Group/**Confirmation**
- 7-8: 30 Hour Famine
- 9: Sunday Hangout
- 12: Youth Group
- 16: Sunday Hangout
- 19: Youth Group/**Confirmation/High School Chick-fil-A Night**
- 23: Sunday Hangout
- 30: Sunday Hangout
- TBD: Friendsgiving

December

- 3: Christmas Shopping
- 7: Gift Wrapping/Sunday Hangout
- 10: Youth Group/**Confirmation**
- 17: Youth Group
- TBD: Christmas Party
- Dec 21-Jan 4: Christmas Break

Faith in Action



What Does it mean to be Welcoming?

A parent of one of the performers in last Sunday's Music Camp Musical commented to Pastor Nanette, "I watched your video bible lesson on Genesis. I really appreciated your insights on the importance of hospitality." When we think of Love of Christ Lutheran Church Parish it is way bigger than just those who show up on a particular Sunday or give money to support the mission here. Our parish expands to neighborhood schools, Resurrection Street Ministries, Family Promise, LoC Preschool families, Troop 301 and Pack 301, and other neighbors and friends who may not officially be "members" of the congregation, but this is their church, their faith community, and are grateful they are welcome.



Endowments offer another stream of God's provision of enough

As was shared in a recent ENews, our fund balance the end of June was almost \$120,000 and in August the Endowment Team may provide some grants based on our bylaws. Someone asked how might I support the Love of Christ Endowment Fund?

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

- Cash gifts
- Gifts by will
- Stocks, bonds, real estate
- Life insurance and annuities
- IRA, profit sharing, 401k distributions
- Trusts and trust distributions
- Life insurance agreements
- Collectibles and other assets
- Low cost basis stocks

HOW IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTED?

- 20% Outreach into the community and synod
- 20% Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 20% Capital Improvements, debt reduction, or building programs of LoC Lutheran Church
- Remaining 40% to be distributed by the endowment committee to the above mentioned categories. The maximum distribution to any mission category is 40%

To learn more about the Endowment Fund or how you might be able to provide a gift go to <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>



Sleep in Heavenly Peace News



SHP will soon be delivering the 10,000th bed in the valley since we began in 2018!

See a video about this effort at:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4223464367922796>

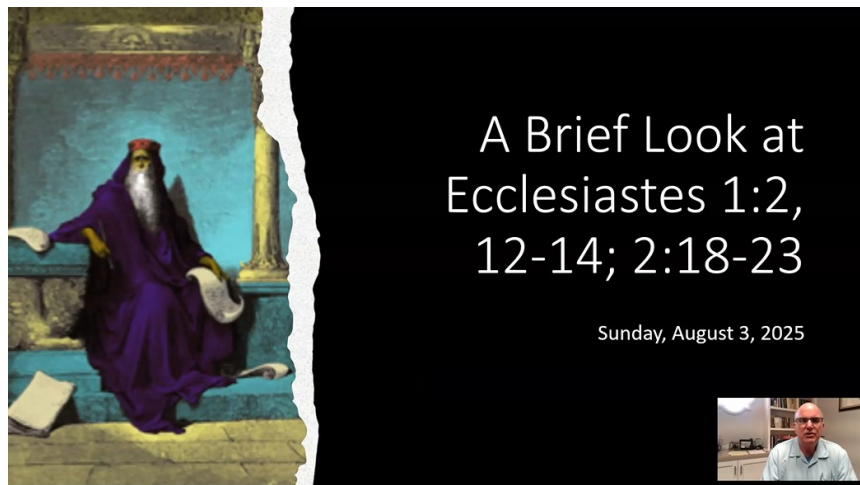
Members and friends of Love of Christ have provided bedding bundles (sheet set, blanket, stuffed toy and a book) for 160 bed deliveries so far this year, through our delivery hub in Mesa.

Come join the delivery team and experience the joy of seeing a kid climb in his or her very own bed for the first time! We generally deliver on the third Saturday of the month. Contact Jack or JoAnn Grant for more information.

Of course, along with our effort to deliver more beds to more kids, is the need for bedding, and we are in desperate need of new twin sheet sets in different colors to go with our bedding bundles as well as books and stuffed toys (especially for pre-teens and teens)

Favorite colors for new twin sheets are pink, purple, blue, green, grey, white, beige, red. If you need suggestions on where to purchase, talk to JoAnn Grant or Jan Barnett.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0pMOFLtGIDc>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/1863147147574542/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 12:13-21
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(10 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dZwEiU3piW0>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/1415750239654690/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Online Introductions to Lectionary Lessons
are available by Wednesday of each week!

Pastor Steve's sermon title: "Take Care! Be on Guard"

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your ^[a] life is revealed, then you al-

so will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ^[b] ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ^[c] ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive ^[d] language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal ^[e] there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up

for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."