

**Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry**

**August 3, 2025**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Extraordinary Ordinary Faith**

15 Minutes     **Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.***

Prayer     Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p43)

45 Minutes     **Introduction:** Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word. (from Sundays and Seasons)

**Discussion Questions:**

Read again Luke 12:13-21

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

What does Jesus' statement in v.14 reveal to us about Jesus? His ministry?

Why can Jesus' direct warning in v.15 seem extraordinary?

How does his statement inform our life of faith?

Explore Jesus parable and how it illustrates his teaching.

What does it look like to be 'rich toward God'?

How do you live like that?

What do you need to change in order to be rich toward God?

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

What do you notice about this wisdom as you read/hear it this time?

What is the connecting image as this pericope jumps around?

How does this image connect with our gospel story today?

What is the good news proclaimed in this reading?

Read again Colossians 3:1-11

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How does this passage connect to today's gospel story?

How would our lives and our interaction with the world change if we see the Christ in all?

Read and reflect on Psalm 49:1-12 if you'd like.

20 Minutes     **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes     **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**