

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

**Greeting** – The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”**

**#857 (twice)**

**Prayer of the Day**

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

### Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

### Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

There is no written sermon for our worship packets this week.

Our sermon in worship will be brought to us by Pastor Tim Wrenn from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio – a suburb of Columbus. Pastor Tim is taking a group of young people from Prince of Peace to Leech Lake Reservation in Bemidji, MN to serve alongside partner organizations and learn more about Ojibwe culture and reservation life. Pastor Tim and the group will be staying overnight at Good Shepherd on Saturday evening and, as a thank you, will be giving Pastor Josh a Sunday off from Preaching.

If there is a transcript of the sermon available after we will include it in the worship packet for next week.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**Song of the Day**

**“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”**

**#251**

**Apostle's Creed**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Sandy*).

Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed (*including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today*), so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**Communion**                      **#471 and #474 (vs. 1,2)**

### **Prayer**

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.  
**Amen.**

### Sending Song

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

#822, vs. 1,2,4,5

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**  
And all of Good Shepherd said...  
**AMEN!**

## July Financial Snapshot

### Your generosity in action:

Happening THIS SUNDAY, as some of our young people are getting dropped off at Luther Park, they will present LPBC with a \$2,685.43 check. These are dollars that THEY helped collect from each of YOU during worship in the second quarter.

**THANK YOU!!**

Through July 19

Total Revenue **\$19,557**

2 more Sunday Offerings to Come

Total Expenses **\$15,370**

Projected Expenses: \$25,000

Difference to date:  
**\$4,187**



Lutheran Church of the  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
KNOWN · SEEN · LOVED

### Strong Again Summer Appeal

Boiler Loan, Budgeted Youth Room Expense,  
and LINE OF CREDIT PAID OFF!!

UP NEXT: How financially strong  
will we be in the fall?

GIFTS RECEIVED

\$2,000 Lead Gift

\$8,134 towards \$10,000 Match = \$16,268

\$18,268 total received



# Lutheran Church of the **GOOD SHEPHERD** KNOWN • SEEN • LOVED

## Our Values

Deep and meaningful relationships that cross generations  
for the sake of the Gospel lived through:  
A genuine welcome of all  
Worship that engages each of God's children  
Nurturing faith together  
Meeting the needs of our neighbors

The Strategic Plan Team has been busy pouring through the data received from the Congregation Survey Process. We've looked at every rated response and every written response. This data has led us to these two things:

1. We affirmed our Mission Statement. This is how we believe people feel when they leave an experience at Good Shepherd.
2. From there we focused on our values. What are the things that we value as a congregation?
  - a. These are things that we will not waiver on.
  - b. These are things that will inform decisions that we make.
  - c. These values are a living breathing organism that will impact the future of the congregation.

The Strategic Plan Team presented these two statements to the Congregation Leadership Team and it was a unanimous "YES! This is who we are!"

**Please keep the Qualley Family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Marilyn. She passed away Sunday, July 16. A Celebration of Life will be held from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at her son, Todd's home in Arkansaw.**

## HEART FOR LUTHER PARK

Art, Craft, and Quilt Auction

Sunday, August 6, 2023

9:30 Worship

10:00 Viewing of Quilts

11:00 Lunch

12:00 Auction Begins



Luther Park Bible Camp 944 24 1/4 St. Chetek, WI

**RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE  
FOR  
REVEREND GREG KAUFMANN**



Luther Park Bible Camp-Chetek  
Saturday, August 26, 2023  
1-4 p.m.  
Program at 2:30  
Celebrating 23 years of ministry  
RSVP: Liz Bartsch  
715.859.6810 or  
lbartsch@nswi.org



**WE provide the  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
YOU provide the  
BACKPACKS**



**TOGETHER  
we provide the  
LOVE OF JESUS**



**Bring backpacks to any  
participating church by Aug. 1st**

[www.wecareeauclaire.com](http://www.wecareeauclaire.com)

**Backpacks can be brought to Good Shepherd during regular office hours or on Sundays.**