



Matthew 13:24-30

*Bethany Lutheran Church
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
July 20, 2008*

The Introduction

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.

Order Of Service

***Congregation Stands**

The Prelude	<i>"Hymn For Brotherhood"</i>	Hughes
The Hymn	<i>"Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"</i>	LBW # 389

- 1) Stand up, stand up for Jesus, as soldiers of the cross,
Lift high his royal banner; it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry his army he shall lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2) Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict in this his glorious day.
Let all his faithful serve him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.
- 3) Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor; each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.
- 4) Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, the next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see,
And with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

Sharing of Parish Concerns

*The Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the source of life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

C: **God of compassion, we confess that we have failed to bear witness that you desire to draw all people to yourself. In our hearts we have thought ill of those who differ from us, and our love of others has not been genuine. We have been caught up in the cares of the world. We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships. Forgive our sins, merciful God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for those in need, and that our lives may witness to your never-failing love for your creation. Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

*The Hymn

"For The Fruit Of All Creation"

WOV # 760

- 1) For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2) In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3) For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*The Greeting & Kyrie

LBW PP. 57-58

P: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Amen.**

*The Hymn Of Praise

"Glory To God"

LBW PP. 58-59

A: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.
Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

*The Salutation & Prayer

LBW P. 62

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray.

***The Prayer Of The Day**

All: 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.

Special Music "Mine Eyes Have Seen The King" Lois Pinar

The First Reading Isaiah 44:6–8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Special Music "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Lois Pinar

The Second Lesson Romans 8:12–25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with

him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

***The Alleluia (sung)** LBW P. 62

**All: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

***The Announcing of the Gospel (sung)**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***The Gospel** Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And 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?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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.'" ³⁶Then 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."

³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹"The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

***After the Gospel (sung)**

C: Praise to you, O Christ. LBW P. 63

The Hymn "God's Word" LBW # 239

- 1) God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
Throughout all generations.

The Sermon Rev. Paul M. Mai

***The Apostles' Creed** LBW P. 65

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offertory "On Wings Of Morn" Nolte

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***The Prayers**

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
A brief silence.

Everlasting God, your mercy extends far beyond our scope of vision. Encourage your people to bear mercy to those we might tend to overlook. Hear us, O God;
C: your mercy is great.

A: Your care provides for those most in need. Make grain to sprout forth in the midst of famine, and let the earth flourish in hostile environments. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Your love penetrates the thickest barriers. Breathe new life into suffering relationships, and deliver hope to those who have long ago lost any hope. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Your wholeness covers all the nations. Hear the cries of those who lack health care and those who struggle with any issue of health (especially). Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Your promise is secured for all people in Christ. Turn our hearts, that all may look beyond themselves in service to one another. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Your life is given to all the saints. May we remember their witness to your righteousness as we walk through this life. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

LBW P. 71

**All: 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**

***The Closing Hymn**

"Blest Be The Tie"

LBW # 370

- 1) Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
- 2) Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
- 3) We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
- 4) From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

***The Benediction**

LBW P. 76

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

C: **Amen. Amen. Amen. (Sung)**

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED...OUR SERVICE BEGINS

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 S 11th St - Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-6642

THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor Rev. Paul M. Mai
Secretary Sandy Flinn
Director of Parish Ministries Jeanne Sauter
Organist Don Aronson
Special Music Lois Pinar
Liturgist Kaitlyn Anderson
Lector & Closing Prayer Bob Sovey
Sound System Kaitlyn Kell
Acolytes. Kyle Piehler, Jake Zelenak
Nursery Supervisor Traci Harris
Ushers. Leroy & Char Scheeneman, Jim Goodyer,
Gary Dahl, Peg Hanson, Lois Pinar

Radio - given by Gary & Carol Butryn in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary today.

Flowers - in celebration of their parents, Gary & Carol Butryn's 40th wedding anniversary today by their children, Mark, Beth, Matthew and their families.

Center Vase - in celebration of the 40th reunion of the Class of 1968 on July 18-19; and in celebration of the last of her 50's on July 21st by Nancy Peterson.

STEWARDS RECORD

Budgeted Goal to Date \$ 177,688
Budgeted Goal Received to Date \$ 176,428
Attendance Last Sunday 202
Building Debt \$ 38,504

MINISTRIES

TODAY	10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour Held Downstairs
MONDAY	7:00 p.m. Worship
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m. Grief Support Group Meeting
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m. Quilting Group
SATURDAY	2:00 p.m. Danielle King & Larry Valiquette Wedding

WELCOME - First John 1-7 says: *"If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another."* That kind of fellowship can begin here and now. Let us place ourselves in the light of God and joyfully reach out in fellowship with others. We ask everyone present to sign a pew card and place it in the offering plate. If you have a special request or we can be of service to you please indicate it on the pew card.

PRAYERS - we pray for the following people, who are in need of our prayers. If you know of someone we should include, please let us know by way of the pew cards or by calling the church office. We pray for:

Phil Norman	John Pinar	Marilyn Christianson
Wanda Getzloff	Grace Seidl	Ruth Sundstrom
Oliver Christiansen	Manford Magnuson	Al Atwood
Brooke Furmanski	Richard Erickson (brother-in-law of Dennis & Debbie Renken)	
Cecile Henry (sister of Marie Zeno)	Don Christensen (Father of Phil & Chrysta)	
Rick Lancour (uncle of LeeAnne Strand)	Tony Filezetti (friend of Dave & Vicki Linnea)	

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Vernon K. Johnson who died on Sunday, July 13th. Vernon's memorial service will be held at Bethany on Monday, August 4th at 4 p.m. Visitation with the family will be from 3-4 p.m. at Bethany.

SERVING - remember in prayer those serving in the military. We pray for: Jessica Charon Jones, Fred Jones, Jeff & Star Monson, Christopher Klingman, Brian Rahoi, Gary Gregg, Ike Howard, Richard Peterson, Matt & Mark Witte, Jennifer Scheeneman Brooks, Adam Johnsen, James Mokszycke, Leeann Scheeneman Peterson & Pete Peterson.

NEEDED - fabric for the Wednesday quilting group— used or new. Please drop off at Bethany a.s.a.p. so they can continue to make quilts.

BIRTHDAY - celebrating her 92nd birthday on Tuesday, July 22nd is Lillian Mileski and celebrating her 93rd birthday on Thursday, July 24th is Pearl DeBoer. We wish them both a very happy birthday! May God bless Lillian & Pearl today and each day of the year.

10th GRADE STUDENTS — Please turn in your Chicago impressions a.s.a.p. They were due on June 26. Thank you!

BOOK OF FAITH CHALLENGE - you are invited to take the Book of Faith challenge to read the entire Bible in one year. Below is a list of the daily readings for this week.

#25 7/20-7/26	Psalms 79-84	Psalms 85-89	Psalms 90-95	Psalms 96-102	Psalms 103-105	Psalms 106-108	Psalms 109-115
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FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Coffee hours will be held following the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning services throughout the summer. Servers are needed to make the coffee, secure goodies for the coffee hour, and clean up the kitchen and fellowship hall following the coffee hour. You may make or buy the goodies for the morning. You will be reimbursed for all expenses. If you can help out with this task, we ask you to please call the church office (786-6642) or indicate on a pew card. **Hosts are needed for AUGUST 17, 24, 31**. We appreciate and thank Alan & Shirley Sanville for hosting the coffee hour today!

CANCELLED - Unfortunately the **mission trip to Reformation Church** in Milwaukee scheduled for September 26th - 28th has been cancelled. We will be meeting someone from Reformation on our way to Great America to deliver the items collected for their Neighborhood Store and Coffee House. We appreciate all of your donations and those of the "Power Lab" students and teachers. Thank you!

COOKBOOK - our sister church, Christ the King, recently put together a hardcoverd cookbook titled **"Recipes & Remembrances"** for their 50th anniversary. If you would like to look at or purchase one of these cookbooks, they are located in the church office. The cost is \$20.00.

GREAT AMERICA - All Students and their friends entering 6th-12th grade are invited to go on the bus trip to Great America **Tuesday, August 5th**. A \$50.00 deposit is required to save your seat on the bus. Bring it into the church office right away as over half the seats are taken. The total cost is \$85.00. You will leave at 5:30 a.m. and come back between 10:30-11:00 p.m. the same day. The deadline to sign up is July 30th. When you make your deposit please let us know if you want a "sausage or egg McMuffin".

LOOKING - we are in need of sponsors for our Radio Broadcasts for **2008: November 9, 30**. The cost of broadcasting the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings is \$85.00. Two people may share the cost for the same Sunday. Available Sundays in **2009** are: January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23; September 6, 13, 20; October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8, 22, 29; December 6, 13, 20, 24.

USHER COORDINATOR - the church office is looking for a person(s) to be in charge of getting ushers for each month for the 9:30 & 10:45 a.m. worship services. Indicate on a pew card today or call the church office if you are interested.

Jesus ♦ Justice ♦ Jazz

July 22-26, 2009

In 2009, Lutheran youth and adults will gather around Word and Sacrament in New Orleans, Louisiana, the birthplace of jazz and home of a rich cultural history. They will participate with their peers (about 36,000) in worship, Bible study, service, and play; all shaped around the theme Jesus • Justice • Jazz.

Pastor Paul will be taking a group to New Orleans next year. You are invited to prayerfully consider making this trip. We *estimate* the cost of the trip to be around \$1,000.00 per student. Registrations for the gathering must be in by September 15, 2008. If you are interested in making this trip please sign a pew card or call 786-6642. We will have to begin fund raising soon.

Registration opens September 15, 2008. The registration fee is \$295.00 per person. A \$125.00 non refundable deposit is due upon registering. If you think you would be interested in making the trip with us please let us know by calling 786-6642 or signing a pew card.

DIRECTORY - a new pictorial directory is in the planning stages. Pictures will be taken September 9th -13th and 16th-20th. Will you be able to help? We will need people to be involved in Publicity, Scheduling Photography, Photography Sessions and the Directory Layout committee. If you are willing to help please contact Jeanne by pew card or phone at 786-6642. Your help is needed and appreciated!

OUR MISSION PROJECT FOR V.B.S. was items for Reformation's "**Neighborhood Store & Coffee Shop**". Marge and Tee have emailed Bethany the following request: new underwear, socks, or jewelry. **HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** silverware, curtains, sheets and pillow cases, towels and wash cloths, kitchen towels and clocks. **ELECTRONICS:** VCRs, radios, CD players, telephones and small appliances in working order. **SUPPLIES:** 13 and 15 gallon garbage bags, hot cups and coffee, sugar and creamer. All items should be delivered to Room 2 in the Educational Building by July 31 as we have to take these items with us on the Great America trip and drop them off with Marge outside of Milwaukee so the kids and adults will have what they need before school starts. Marge did say that one of the most called for items was underwear and socks of all sizes and for all ages.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - we will continue to collect "Health Kits" as well as "Sewing Kits" during the month of July.

The Health Kit should contain:

a hand towel and washcloth (dark colors recommended),
a bath size bar of soap (in its original wrapping),
a toothbrush in its original packaging, toothpaste (with a shelf life of at least 12 months-unwrap packaging),
comb (wide tooth preferred, remove packaging), 6 band-aids ½" x ¾" and
metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached (remove packaging) do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file.
Wrap all items **except the toothpaste** in the towel, and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. The toothpaste will be added at the LWR warehouse prior to overseas shipment.

A Sewing kit includes:

3 yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton-blend fabric - 4 yards if 36". (no knits or 100% polyester)
1 pkg. of about 10-15 needles for hand sewing (needles purchased in larger packages can be divided by inserting 12 needles into a swatch of felt or thick fabric)
1 spool matching thread (300 yards)
1 card of 6 or more ½" to 5/8" matching buttons.

WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS! Please call the church office at 786-6642 if you are able to teach or team teach. Our children and youth need you!!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - expect the Fellowship Hall to have a Christmas look on Sunday morning, July 27. The Bethany Craft Group will be hosting the morning coffee after that service, and they will be displaying a sampling of the items they have created for Bethany's Holiday Craft Fair. You are so welcome to come and take a good look! The craft group will be available to answer questions and even share secrets. Goodies for the morning may even include some holiday treats. The Craft Fair will be held at Bethany on a Sunday morning in November.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
Presents
Fall Fiesta & Quilt Auction

October 11, 2008

Fun, games, activities for kids of all ages
Fine Art & Quilt Auction featuring juried quilts, jewelry,
wood pieces, baskets, etc.

Full Ala Carte Meal served including salads, entrees, soups, dessert & snacks

Chili Cook Off

Come and sample the area's best Lutheran Chili!!!

*****Can we get a Bethany "Chilli Team" together?*****

Indicate on a pew card if you want to be on the "Chilli Team"

FORTUNE LAKE - Pastor Paul and his family will leave today and travel to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp where Pastor Paul will be the campus pastor for the week. If you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (786-6642) or after hours contact Sandy Flinn (786-6949).

FALL RETREAT - the Women's Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp will be held from September 19th thru September 21st. The theme this year is "*Having A Mary Spirit*" by Joanna Weaver. We all have a desire to have a willing spirit and to be open to God's call. Come and join the group as we come together to seek a "Mary spirit" as we look to the promise of renewal and hope. Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline for registration is September 1st.