



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for July 19, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

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THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | JULY 20—JULY 26

SUNDAY 9:00am Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Today we officially welcome Allison Grunke to our congregation and install her as a teacher in our preschool. May God richly bless her work in His name during her time here and throughout her future ministry! All Glory to God Alone!

Monthly Newsletter Our monthly calendar/newsletter will be emailed to members. There will also be a few paper copies available at church.

Challenge Week #3 We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

1. Think about the person/people God used to share God's word with you. Call, text, email, or tell them in person what a blessing that has been to you and thank God for them.
2. Consider joining in an evening of canvassing this summer either with a group or on your own. God can use you to open someone's eyes to the eternity he has prepared for them!
3. Think of ways that we can sow the seed of God's Word in different ways as well as how we can implement that in a practical way here at Christ. Bring your ideas to Pastor or Jon Pawlik (Head of Outreach)

Canvassing We will be doing door to door canvassing throughout the next few weeks. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor know. There will be a short meeting with those who will be going out to give some suggestions as to how to go about it while respecting social distance precautions and also some talking points to focus on.



MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Speak, O Lord” (Christian Worship Supplement #735)

[\(Click Here For Music and Lyrics\)](#)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,

We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Though many seeds fall among soil that does not produce fruit, Isaiah gives us God's promise that his Word will never return to him fruitless. The Word is like the rain and snow sent from God in heaven that fall to bring blessing upon the earth and make it fruitful. Just as precipitation makes the earth bud and flourish, so God's Word will always do its work of planting faith in the heart of man and making it fruitful. Faithful workers in God's harvest field are the mouth of God (Jeremiah 15:19) from which the Word goes forth to do its work of planting faith and making it bear much fruit in the heart of man.

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

Paul teaches a lesson on longing for God's plans to come to fruition. Even creation groans for release from the bondage of sin and longs for the freedom of the children of God. One day, God will make all things new and return creation to the perfection with which he made it. Until then, we preach the Word that plants faith that looks for a better world to come and produces the fruit of hope that lets us wait for it patiently.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹ that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³ And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.
Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ² A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not

deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸ But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁸ “So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²² The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³ But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

Sermon on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Theme: Sow! Leave the Growing Up to God.

[Click Here For Video of Sermon](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Focused Outreach – “Sow. Leave the Growing Up to God”

7-19-2020

Today is a day we are celebrating ministry which, in its truest form includes outreach. Today, Alli, you are being installed as a teacher in Christ Lutheran’s educational ministry to this community. Today, we are also continuing our summer sermon series looking at outreach and opening our ears to how God calls each one of us to have this incorporated in our Christian lives. How do we cover all of that in one sermon? How do we give an appropriate amount of time to all of those things so that we are fed, strengthened and encouraged to walk out these doors and get to work in God’s harvest field?

I can tell you confidently I would not be able to come up with a message that would be relevant to all those things, but God on the other hand, God can and he has. In fact, it is what we hear today in our lesson from Matthew 13 concerning the parable of the sower. It is an illustration given by Jesus to point us to how God’s kingdom operates. It is there we turn to today as we see how important it is to sow and leave the growing up to God.

“That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ² A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ He told them many things in parables, saying: “**Listen**, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it

had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸ But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹ Whoever has **ears to hear, let him hear.**”

¹⁸ “So **listen** carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone **hears** the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who **hears** the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²² The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who **hears** the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³ But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who **continues to hear** and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

I highlighted the times Jesus talks about listening and hearing here in this lesson and it clear from how the parable starts, ends and is explained that this is the focus of this lesson. But as we listen, it may seem as though this sower is incredibly foolish! I mean, what a waste of seed! In fact, it would seem that the majority of the seed lands in some type of ground other than the good ground. We are told that some lands here, not most. What a waste of seed and what a waste of time right?

But that is not what Jesus is focusing on. He doesn't focus on the seed that lands elsewhere. No. He focuses on the some, the seed that produced a crop of 30 to 100 times what was sown. Another aspect of this parable that is interesting is the sower's credentials are not given and his technique is not analyzed. It is a sower and the sower sows.

Alli, last week I asked for your baptism date which you kindly shared with me. August 30th 1998. That was a special day. But when you shared that date with me, you didn't share who baptized you, what you were wearing, where it took place, what kind of water was used or who was there. Grant it, I didn't ask for those things but at the same they don't really matter do they? For that matter, to a certain degree, the date really isn't even all that important. So why did I ask for it?

That day is an example of this parable. On that day, your parents were continuing to hear God. On that day, they along with the pastor, were sowing. They did not know that on July 19th, 2020 you would be installed as a teacher here in Cambridge as a teacher in our church's preschool ministry. They didn't know what you would do or who you would be. They left that up to God and just listened to what he asked them to do. Sow. The rest was up to him.

By God's grace, you now have the opportunity to sow for a living, to tell others about God's love, his life for them, his death for their sin, his victory over death that he gives to all who believe. You do not know what will come of it. In fact, a lot of the time you might not see any results or you might see results that are a little depressing because it seems like you aren't being listened to, you are being ignored or you are doing it wrong because you aren't seeing the results you want. You might be tempted to think that you have to place more focus on the ground, on a certain type of person and less focus on sowing. But that is not what God asks you to do. He simply asks you to sow. He asks you to sow recklessly. Let the seed fall where it falls, it will never be a waste because the seed will never run out. God will take care of the growing.

But this parable is not just for Alli, if we think it is all up to the called workers then we are putting names to that sower who has none and we are saying we don't have something to hear. It is for us all. It is a call to all of us to open our ears to the word of God, our God who says “let the one who has an ear, let them hear.” And

here are all of us doing that very thing. Here we are who have benefitted from a sower who listened to God's command. We are the ones God can and will use to produce a crop!

This lesson is saying to each one of us, listen! Don't pretend to know, love to hear. You don't know what the crop will look like when you tell that next person, that isn't up to you. You just sow. Don't be selective with your seed, don't reserve it for a certain place and a certain time. Don't think for one moment that any scattering of the seed is a waste. Some will fall on good soil and some will produce a great crop.

Brother's and sisters in Christ, and especially you Alli. This parable is a call to action. It is a call to action that first and foremost calls all of us to listen to the Word of God ourselves. It is a call to repentance for the times that we have thought and acted as if everything was up to us. It is call to hear the forgiveness that is ours in the resurrected Christ. Forgiveness that flowers fruit in Christ. But it is also a call for each of us to remember just how vital it is to continue to listen. That is the only way we can sow seed that has any chance of growing. For the seed needs to come from the Word of God, and the seed needs to be sown. That is our task. May we take it up with joy and may we always know the growing is up to God and because of that, there will be a crop. So, go and sow. God will make it grow. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

INSTALLATION OF ALLISON GRUNKE

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.

Soloist Sings – "Before You I Kneel" (A Worker's Prayer) – Keith & Kristyn Getty

[\(Click Here For Song and Lyrics\)](#)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

(spoken) AMEN

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

God tells us in the Bible that his Supper is for sinners who are accurately instructed in his word, who examine themselves by living in repentance, and who recognize the miraculous real presence of Jesus' body and blood. It is our joy and honor to use God's Holy Word. Therefore, we invite only current members of Christ, (and those from sister WELS and ELS congregations) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before taking part in the sacrament. He welcomes the chance to study what God says with you. And thanks so much for honoring God's Word in this manner.

⇒ One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.

In order to maintain proper social distancing, we will be observing "continuous flow" for communion. You will be ushered up one row/family unit at a time. You will receive the bread and the wine and then return to your seats. The communion blessing will be spoken to all following the distribution.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Closing Hymn: "Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give" Christian Worship #542