



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for July 26, 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

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
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THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | AUGUST 3 — AUGUST 9

SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
MONDAY	6:00pm	Board of Education Meeting
TUESDAY	6:00pm	Adult Discipleship Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

How can you help? Volunteers are needed for our "Back to School Safely" outdoor event on **August 15** from 9-11am. The event will focus on teaching kids about health and hygiene as well as an opportunity to share how Christ has washed us clean by his precious blood.

Hearing Assistance The council voted to go forward with pursuing the installation of a hearing loop in the sanctuary. \$2,200 has already been reserved for that from Memorials and technology fund designations. About \$4,300 is still needed. If anyone would like to give additional offerings toward this to help make worship more accessible to those who struggle with hearing loss it would be greatly appreciated!

Back to some Normalcy Just a reminder that service opportunities for cleaning, ushering and money counting have resumed. Please let us know if you are signed up but are not able to resume. Thank you!

Challenge Week #5 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:

- Focus on the spiritual blessings God has planted in your life. Keep a running list of them this week and thank God for them in your prayers.
- Ask God for strength not to get caught up focusing on the "weeds" in life and thank God for his promise to destroy them in his wisdom in his time.
- Remember you are not God! You do not know who are "weeds" and who are "wheat". Thank God he does and pray for his wisdom and strength to live as wheat.
- Whenever you find yourself becoming upset with this world, put down your phone, turn off the tv or the radio and spend some time with God and his Word.

welcome

“Here am I. Send me!”
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Shawn M., Tom, Barry **Counters:** Brian K., Paul
Cleaners: Phyllis G., Gretchen A., Rick & Cindy W.

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide” (Christian Worship #541 v.1-3)

(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.

The book of Joel foretells the coming of the Day of the Lord. Here in chapter 3, Joel pictures the judgment of the nations as a day of harvest. The day is coming when the sickle will swing and the harvest will begin. Can you imagine the terror that will strike the unbelieving heart when the sun is darkened and the moon and stars fail to shine? Can you imagine the fear when he hears the roaring and thundering of the LORD? Yes, we live as wheat among weeds, but the harvest is coming. When it does, there will be no need for God's people to fear. He is their refuge and stronghold.

First Lesson: Joel 3:12-16

¹² Let the nations be roused. Let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will be seated to judge all the nations.

¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow, because the nations' wickedness is so great!

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision! For the Day of the LORD is near in the Valley of Decision.

¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars will stop shining.

¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and shout from Jerusalem. The sky and the earth will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Prayer is a gift from God for all believers who are living as wheat among weeds. Surrounded by wickedness, the power and comfort of prayer is a great privilege indeed. Yet it's a privilege that we so often leave unused or underutilized. Thank God for the gift of the Spirit! The One who called, enlightened, and sanctified us is still at work to overcome our weaknesses. When we don't know what to pray for, we can know that the Spirit is praying for us.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that are not expressed in words. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints, according to God's will.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:11b)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ The servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy did this.' The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?' ²⁹ 'No,' he answered, 'because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,

“First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.””

³⁶ Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered them, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴² The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

Sermon on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Theme: “Weed While We Work?”

[Click Here For Message](#)

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

Theme: Weed While We Work?

8-2-2020

Where has your focus been the past couple months? Have you spent time gushing about how noble our government is? Have you spent a lot of time promoting how noble different media outlets are? Have you placed your focus on how kind and receptive this world is towards people who differ in both their political and worldviews? Or do those comments just sort of leave you chuckling...yeah right, maybe in a dream world.

I would guess our time has spent doing a lot of the opposite, complaining about corruption, signing petitions for change, desiring and praying for disease to go away, boycotting stores and news outlets for their stances on certain things. I have done it, especially the complaining, and my guess is you have too or at the very least our thoughts have probably drifted there. In addition, there has been a movement, as of late, to weed out all corruption both past and present. Statues have been torn down, shows have been removed, people have been called out and put on public trial for their stances on issues of racial injustice and ignorance.

In short, there has been a lot of pressure and emphasis placed on trying to fix a lot of different problems that we can clearly see are present. A lot of diligence is being directed towards trying to weed out all sorts of negative aspects of life. And a question that quickly arises can be something along the lines of this: “Where does the Christian stand on these issues?” “What is the church doing to fix these problems?” Those are good questions, in fact, they are so good they may lead us to give some serious pause to the focus of this summer’s sermon series on focused outreach. Is this the best thing we could be doing? Should we instead be focusing on social injustice rather than trying to tell others about Jesus? In a world filled with so much division should we really be going out armed with words that create a lot of division among people normally, let alone a year when it seems like there isn’t a topic out there which could potentially get someone upset? Shouldn’t we be

more concerned about trying to get the world right and then when things settle down a little bit, well then we could focus on outreach a little bit more?

Though it may not always sound like the best answer and though it may even create some frustration among us. We need to hear the words of Jesus today, words which address this very topic. And as we do may we keep in mind that question. Should we be trying to fix the world's problems, should we try to put out all the fires that spring up throughout life, should we weed while we work? Let's listen.

²⁴ He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ The servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy did this.' The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?' ²⁹ 'No,' he answered, 'because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.'"

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One of the most popular questions out there concerning what God prohibits and what God allows might very well be to the effect of why does a perfect God allow bad things to happen or why does God allow bad things to happen to good people. This parable touches on that but this same curiosity is what lead the disciples to actually go to Jesus and ask for an explanation of this parable.

What we see is the devil's desire to constantly try to destroy God's plan. God intended for his field to only be a blessing. All that was sowed in it was good seed. But the devil came and littered it with weeds. This information is key. It is key because it reveals a lot to us concerning how the devil operates. The devil is not attracted to places where things are going bad, the devil is attracted where things are going well. He is going to work hardest to mess up a good field.

So this wheat field that has been planted also with weeds appears to be brimming with life. A lot is growing in it. But we also see that much of what is planted is only worthy to be used as fuel for the fire. But until then, it is going to make life a lot more difficult for the wheat. It is going to be using nutrients the wheat needs, it is going to be crowding it and the life of the wheat is simply going to be harder than if the weed were not there.

The natural instinct, then, is to remove it. Get rid of it all together. But notice God's reaction to that, it is an emphatic NO. Let them grow together God says, he will deal with all the evil at the end of time.

So what does that mean for us? It may seem like it is stating the obvious but it needs to be said just because of how often we forget it, we are going to be living alongside of weeds. Life is going to be hard. Living as a

Christian is not going to be easy. Satan will constantly be trying to destroy the good God has begun in us. These are facts.

In addition to that, it is crucial to remember what our job is not. Our job is not to try and uproot the evil around us. Our job is not to complain to God thinking he does not know what he is doing. Our job is not to go on some sort of crusade to try and change the social injustice of this world. We are perverting God's justice when we think this is our job. The day will come when GOD, not us, not even the angels, will uproot all of the weeds and he will burn them, they will be utterly destroyed and completely separated from the harvest. They will no longer impact the wheat, God's people, in any way.

And while this news is and should be a huge sigh of relief to the Christian, it is in no way an excuse for laziness or an excuse not to grow and get to work. It is no excuse to try and separate ourselves from the evil around us, no excuse to try and separate the wheat and weeds with rules, monasteries or laws. Anyone who tries to do this themselves will only succeed in ruining wheat along with the weeds. They will only succeed in uprooting the faith of the weak when they fall into sin or trampling faith of the strong by feeding their pride. Rather, it is exactly the opposite. It is encouragement that God allows what he does so that you are not uprooted. It is encouragement that God's wisdom is being used in all of its completeness. It is encouragement to open your eyes to how the devil operates so that we may extend our roots deeply into him, that we might grow closer as a family in Christ, closer by his bonds of peace to choke out the weeds Satan tries to plant among us.

Finally, brothers and sisters, here God's encouragement not to weed but to keep our eyes on the coming harvest, to do all that we do knowing that Christ will come and deal with you and I in perfect justice which sees the one our faith holds out in front of us, the one who cloaks us with his righteousness. Weeding is not in the Christian's job description, but harvest minded work is. God help us to get to it. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep us through faith in Christ Jesus. 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.)

Prayer:

Praise and thanks belong to you, O God, for all that you have given us to enjoy this day. You have provided all that we need for our bodies and lives: food, drink, shelter, family and friends, the beauty of the world in which we live. You have given us the blessing of being able to enjoy all that you have supplied by confirming to us that we are your children whom you love and that you have forgiven all of our sins in Jesus. Keep us from becoming cynical to your generosity and goodness. Fill us with your Spirit that we daily rejoice in you.

We leave this place today, O Lord, knowing that we, like Christians everywhere, will be contending for the faith. We will struggle against the evil we see in the world and in us. But

we go also recognizing that you have placed us where we are in life that you might carry out your will through us. In any and every circumstance we can confess that you will be our refuge and stronghold. Strengthen us for that which you have called us to do. May we always be ones who listen to your Word and then put it into practice. Let our lives be ones which worship you for granting us a glimpse of your glory, anticipating that day when we will see you face to face.

Bless the nation in which we live. Use these times that are difficult for many to carry out your will in the world. Be with our leaders that they may live righteously and govern wisely.

Private Petitions

O Holy Spirit, you intercede for us when we find ourselves unable to put our thoughts into words. Sanctify that which is in our hearts and minds and keep us confident that our petitions are acceptable and accepted through the One who has taught us to pray:

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.

Children's Message

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: "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray" Christian Worship #472