



## Milton Lutheran Parish

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-7473

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – 100 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847 – 570-742-4601

*Deacon Gary Schaeffer, Interim Pastor*

Dear Friends of the Milton Lutheran Parish:

Deacon Gary is on vacation and asked me to do the letter this week.

In this week's Gospel Jesus tells us the Parable of the Weeds. The servants, when seeing there are weeds in the wheat that was sown, immediately want to pull them out. They are afraid that the weeds will kill the wheat that they had so carefully planted. Because they are intertwined, removing the weeds is harmful to the wheat.

Jesus stops them. He will not harm the weeds, as he did not plant them. And the wheat will still grow. Basically, the wheat is representing God's faithful, the good, and the weeds are the sinners, not of God.

We are all in this world together, saints and sinners, wheat and weeds. And God uses all of us. The weeds brings us trials and worry, but if we keep our wheat--our faith--healthy, it can bring us no harm.

So as followers of Jesus, as wheat, we need to take the time to embrace and help the sinner, the weeds. Perhaps if we did so we could change those weeds into beautiful flowers.

Take some time to go out of your way to perhaps turn a weed on its way to becoming the wheat. What opportunities do you see around you to bring God's words to your neighbors? Do you sometimes feel like the servants in this Gospel passage and feel frustration with the "weeds?" What do you tell yourself when you feel that way?

My personal prayer for all of us this week is that we do just that. Even in this time of social distancing, we can still reach out to others by phone, mail or even when you are out at the grocery store. Even while wearing a mask a "hello" and "take care, have a nice day" can go a long way to help make that weed into flower by feeling noticed and cared for.

God Bless,

Donna Riccio, Parish Office Administrator

### ***Notice About Special Congregational Meetings***

*This is to inform you that on Sunday, August 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., we will be having an outdoor "parking lot" worship service and special congregational meetings of the Milton Lutheran Parish. The service will be led by Deacon Gary Schaeffer, and will be held in the parking lot of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please plan to arrive beginning at 6 p.m. so that informational documents can be distributed prior to the service. We will have an FM radio channel set up so that you can hear the service directly in your car OR you may choose to set up a lawn chair in the grassy area behind the church. Pray for good weather! We are excited to inform you that the agenda item for the special congregational meetings is to vote to call a pastor for the Parish. And, we thank our call committee for their unprecedented work to complete this process during a pandemic! In order to have an official and complete vote to call our new pastor, we need as many of our members to show up to provide your support to the call committee and let your voice be heard. We look forward to "seeing" you all during this special service!*

**Sunday, July 19, 2020, Worship Bulletin  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Milton Lutheran Parish- Milton, PA**



**Welcome and Announcements**

**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.**

**Opening Hymn: #853 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.  
Amen.

P- Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C- Reconciling God,**

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Who 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.  
<sup>8</sup>Do 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.

**Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.  
<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**  
<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.  
<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**  
<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.  
<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**  
<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;  
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for 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. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For 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!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and 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.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that 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. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and 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. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Gospel: 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!"

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn: #681 "We Plow the Fields"**

## **Apostles Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way and who else and what else shall the people of Milton Lutheran Parish pray for. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

**Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: #693 "Come, Ye Thankful People"**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**