

*Bethel Lutheran Church
Resurrection Lutheran Church*

Combined Worship Picnic

Pastor Melissa Pagel

Sunday, July 19th 2026

Lectionary 16 (Pentecost 8)

*Congregational responses are printed in **Bold Type**.*



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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.

Rejoice O people! Shout aloud!

We come from north, south, east and west, proclaiming:
Great is the steadfast love of God!

We are brought together –a widespread, diverse family,
rejoicing:
Great is the steadfast love of God!

Invitation To Discipleship

If we are honest, we know that we can bear good fruit, but we
struggle with the weeds that grow up around our hearts

What are the weeds you are facing today? How can you nurture
the fruit of good works within you?

Gathering Hymn O God Whose Word Well-Planted
ACS 975

Crossways Camp

Robyn Koehler COO of Crossways encourages you not to let summer slip by without a taste of camp!

You are welcome to attend any of the following events:

- Friends Picnic (Donor, Volunteer, Stakeholder Event) at Pine Lake Camp on Wednesday, July 29th.
- Wednesdays & Fridays: Standing invitation to join us at Pine Lake. Wednesdays include worship with campers, lunch, and a walk & talk - great for donors, people you'd like to bring into the community, or yourself for a taste of camp. Fridays include being our Grill Master for hot dogs and hamburgers, followed by camper-led closing worship.

Important Announcements for Bethel

- Worship time will be changing to 8:30 am starting Sunday, July 26th.
- Ashley will be out of the office the week of July 27th. She will be getting the newsletter out early so if you have anything for The Herald, please get her the information as soon as possible.

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line having three verses. The lyrics are: 1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold, 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain, 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old, at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain. will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield. who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace, Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil. that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace. and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952
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Confession and Forgiveness

We are dust and to dust we shall return.
Yet into this dust, God has breathed the Spirit of life.
Info this dust, God pours out the gift of grace.

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.
**God of our ancestors, you have remained faithful to us
from generation to generation.
But we have broken our promises.
We hear your plans for us and we laugh in disbelief.
We test your patience and question your providence.
We bargain away our birthright and grasp at what is not
ours.
We succumb to jealous rivalry and betray those we love.
Forgive us, we pray.
Recreate us as your people and restore us to your image.
Continue to bless us and let us be a blessing for others.
Keep us in your mercy and cover us with your grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God has made an everlasting covenant with us; to preserve us
from destruction, despite our sin.
When the clouds come and the rain falls, we see the rainbow and
remember God’s promise—
The gift of overflowing mercy and abundant grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Beer & Theology

Join us the second Tuesday of each month with Bethel for Beer
and Theology at Cheesecake Heaven at 5:30 pm. Food and
drink will be available for purchase.

Used Sheets and Blankets Needed

Have you cleaned out your linen closet lately? If so and you
have sheets and blankets you no longer need or use, please bring
them to Resurrection Church so the quilters may recycle them
into their beautiful quilts!

Resurrection Church Council Meeting Date Change

The Resurrection Church Council meeting has been moved to
Monday, July 27 at 6 PM.

School Supply Drive

The giving tree at Resurrection will be collecting new, unused
school supplies soon and will be distributed to three area
elementary schools. Thank you so much for your donations to
this very important outreach project!

Supplies needed:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Pens | Pencils |
| Markers | Colored Pencils |
| glue sticks | wide ruled notebooks |
| Crayons | Erasers |
| Folders | Rulers |
| Scissors | Index Cards |
| Sticky Notes | Rubber Bands |

- **Saturday, September 5th:**
Stuffed Bell Peppers
Beef & Broccoli Teriyaki (Local Beef)
Quinoa Pizza Bites
Lazy Day Oatmeal Cake
- Time is 1-3 PM

Flyers are in the Narthex and the cost is \$60. You can call, email or text Emily Cowles to register: Please sign up by the Wednesday prior to the workshop.

- 605-515-3910 or RDEmily@emskitchentable.com

Or Purchase Online:

<https://emskitchentable.com/productdetails/product/mealprep>

Noisy Offering

Thank you for your contributions of \$127.39 to benefit St. Vincent DePaul!

The Chosen Bible Study

Please bring your own lunch and join us for episodes of *The Chosen* followed by a discussion in the Gathering Room at Resurrection Church on the following Wednesdays from 11:30-1:00 pm.

- July 29
- August 12
- August 26

Prayer of the Day

O God, our great redeemer, enable us to see your activity among us, that even as we live in a world filled with anxiety and scarcity, we might live with the assurance of your abundant promise of protection and grace and the promise that you will never leave us nor forsake us; for the sake of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **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.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ 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

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of

Softball Schedule

It's that time again for the church softball games! There are flyers in the Narthex. All games will be played at Cornerstone Sports Complex.

Games:

- July 19 4:15 PM Field 2
- July 26 Playoffs
- August 2 Playoffs
- August 9 Playoffs

Meal Prep Workshops

Are you looking for healthy, tasty meals? There will be a series of workshops held in the church kitchen. This workshop has you walking away with three different dinners, each giving you 4-6 servings, along with a dozen delicious muffins or some sort of dessert.

All the planning and grocery shopping are done for you! You'll go home with one meal ready to eat and two prepped for whenever you need them.

If the meal isn't to your liking, give it as a gift!

All meat is sourced from local farmers and ranchers

Come prep three amazing meals with a fun group!

Upcoming Menus:

- **Monday, August 17th:**
Great Northern Enchiladas with Cilantro Lime Corn
Baked Ziti
Cilantro Lime Chicken
Fresh Berry Dessert Salad
- Time is 6-8 PM

This Week at a Glance

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday	9:00 am-2:00 pm
Monday	
Meth Anonymous	6:00 pm
Tuesday	
Quilters	9:00 am
Thursday	
Food Pantry	5:30-7:30 pm
Friday	
Alcoholics Anonymous	9:00-10:30 am
Cocaine Anonymous	7:00-9:00 pm
Sunday	
Worship Service	10:00 am

Upcoming Events

Assisting with Worship	Serving us today	7/26/26
Musician	Greg Pagel	Greg Pagel
Usher	Open	Open
Communion Deacon	Debbie La Plante	Carol Borremans
Counters	John & Jodi Koch	John & Jodi Koch
Lector	Pete Peterson	Debbie La Plante
Altar Guild	Linda Bertrand	Linda Bertrand
Fellowship	Church Picnic	Cathy Morgans

God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ 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. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
ELW 512

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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Sing to the Lord of Harvest

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,

with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.

by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,

sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.
Glory to you O Lord.

The Blessing

Go in peace, to live and share the love of Christ
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn Sing to the Lord of Harvest
ELW 694***

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

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ 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?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ 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.’ ”

³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just 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, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of

teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Melissa Pagel

***Hymn of the Day Come Ye Thankful People Come
ELW 693***

Invitation to the Table

This table is a harvest; the place where God’s good seeds—sown with love and care over centuries and across generations and in every corner of the earth—have taken root, weathered seasons and faithfully borne fruit with every passing year.

It is the place where we receive sustenance from the efforts of those who came before us.

It is where we dine with them and are encouraged by them, remembering that we do not walk alone as we seek to live lives shaped and guided by God’s grace,

Come to this table.

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

Holy, holy W & P #62

Holy, Holy, Holy
Santo, santo, santo

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

On the night...let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The 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.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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 the People

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Offering Prayer

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God. **It is right to give God
thanks and praise.**

It is indeed, our right, our duty, and our joy...and join their unending hymn.