



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2017

**All who are able, please stand.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

***Opening Hymn** “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” ELW 609

***Apostolic Greeting** pg 138

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***Kyrie** pg 138

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: 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.

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** pg 139

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

**All: 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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Leader: Let us pray.

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.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

OT Page 633

Psalm 86:11-17

OT Page 507

Leader: ¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

**All: ¹²I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.**

Leader: ¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

**All: ¹⁴O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.**

Leader: ¹⁵But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**All: ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.**

Leader: ¹⁷Show 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

NT Page 138

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation** "God Himself Is with Us" (v.1, UCC)

**1. God himself is with us;
let us now adore him,
and with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple;
all within keep silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone do we own
as our God and Savior;
praise his name forever.**

Leader: The Gospel according to the 13th Chapter of Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

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

NT Page 12

Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Mark

Hymn of the Day

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

ELW 763

***Apostles' Creed**

pg 105

***Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Offering "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW 810

***Offertory Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

Each petition ends: “Lord in your mercy”

Response: “Hear our prayer”

***Lord’s Prayer**

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** “Lead On, O King Eternal” ELW 805

***Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.


OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM

Today:	9:30	Worship
	10:30	Fellowship
	11:00	Choir practice
Thursday:	9:30	BLCW Do Day with mtg at 2:30
Sunday:	9:30	Worship
	10:30	Fellowship
	11:00	Choir practice

July 16th: Attendance: 90 Offering: \$1,550.00
Greeters: Kay & Duane Kracht; Barb Christensen & Donnabelle Ekberg
Organist: Sue Brugman
Reader: Terry or Marcia Steffen

COMMUNICATIONS: Church Office: 933-2229

- Pastor Mark Wilms:
- E-mail: pmamlw@royaltelco.net
- Lynn Wilms: 507-251-9242
- Pastor’s Cell Phone: 507-251-8993
- Secretary Cindy Buren: E-mail: bic@royaltelco.net

In Our Thoughts & Prayers 

-Ethan Batschelet, Missionary--Siloam Girls’ School in India--Joyce Sabel (daughter of Roger & Betty Kruse)
 -Paulette Tuton--JoAnn Treinen--Cleo Wild--Debbie Tewes (daughter of Jack & Judy Phillips)--Family of Evelyn Ohrt (Aunt of Ann Myers)--Duane & Kay Kracht & Duane’s surgeon--Family of Margaret Lundquist (mother of Connie Huberg)--Melvin Taylor (Pam Santage’s dad)--Bibi Sangho (friend of Deb & Dean Mechler)--Pam VanderLugt (close friend of Josh & Iesha Toft)--Family of Dorinda Goodale -Ann Myers *(Please call the church office to add someone to the prayer list. Requests stay on the list for one month unless you instruct us to do otherwise.*

30th Annual Quilt Auction at Ingham Okoboji will be held on August 4 & 5. On Friday, August 4: quilt preview 5:00-7:00 pm Scandinavian Feast from 5:30-7:30 pm. Glenn Henriksen Concert: 7:00 pm. (free will offering).

Saturday, August 5th: Quilt viewing: 9:30-12:00 (noon); 5K Run/walk: 8:00am (register at www.okoboji.org/5k) Lunch: 11am-1pm - Afternoon: pie and ice cream Auction: 1:00pm. Go to www.okoboji.org/quilt or call 1-800-okoboji for more information.

***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 into hell.
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.**

***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.**

Chief of Sinners Though I Be (ELW 609)

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high,
lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity.
Love that found me--wondrous thought--
found me when I sought him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart
balm to heal the wounded heart,
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
faith and hope to walk with God
in the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
all my wants to him are known,
all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life
safe with him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford
by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
keep me in the narrow way;
grace in time of need supply
while I live and when I die.

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My Life Flows On in Endless Song (ELW 763)

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? Refrain

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? Refrain

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O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2. Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

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#805 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

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Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus 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.

Romans 8:12-25

¹²So 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.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He put before them 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. ⁴¹The 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!