

Joy Lutheran Church

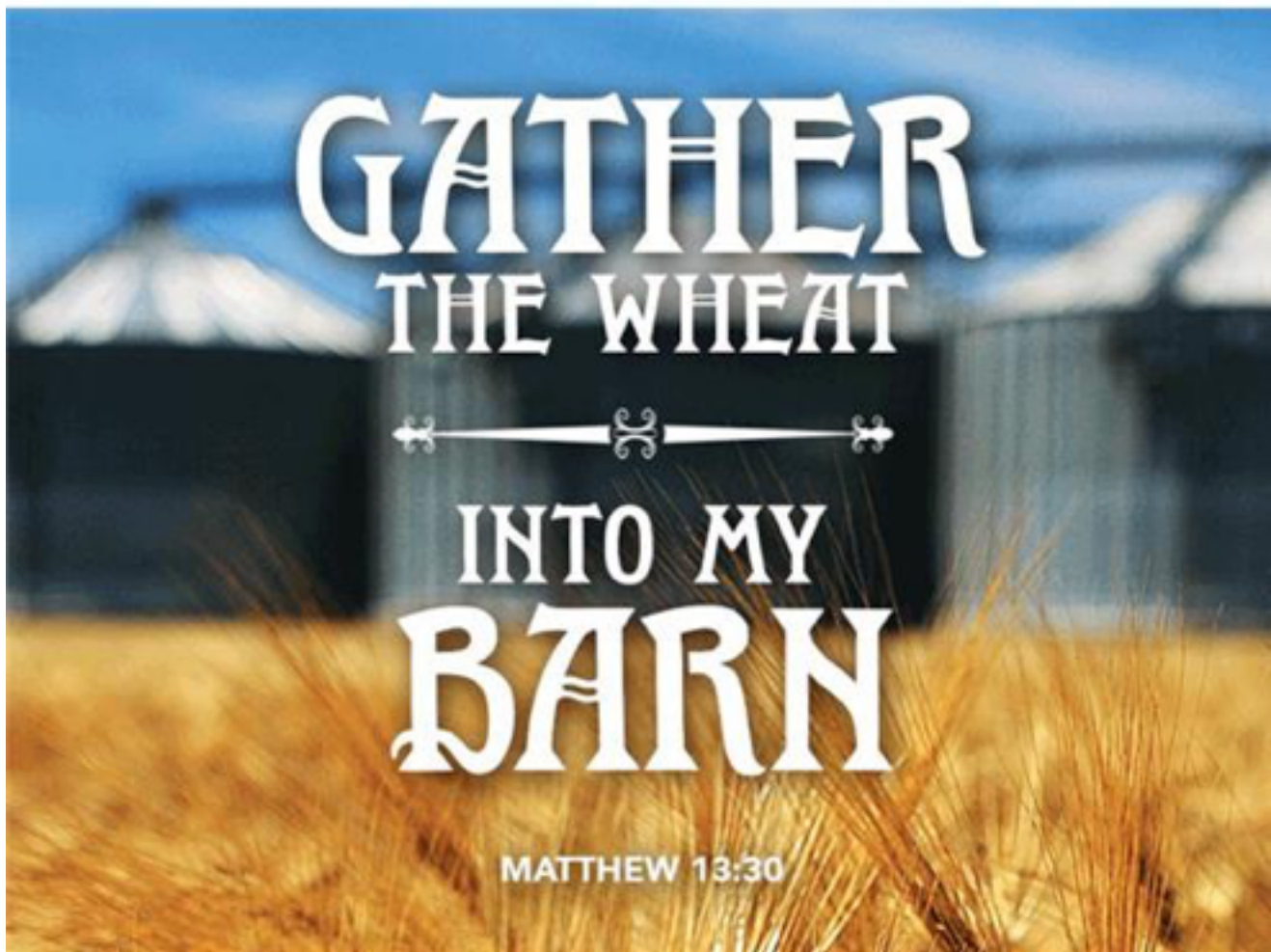
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Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don't like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.



Flowers are given
by Scooter & Roy



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.

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

C: and also with you.

Call to Worship

P: The seed of your kingdom is forever being sown into our lives, O God.

C: But it does not always take root. Sometimes it fails to grow within us.

P: And so we pray for ourselves and others when life makes us hard and resistant like a well trodden path where old habits, old systems and patterns keep your message from growing.

C: We pray for ourselves and others when we become immersed in shallow soil of the moment,

P: where Your Message, God, too easily gets blown away by the wind.

C: We pray for ourselves and others when our fears, insecurities and self-absorption tangle your grace like thorns.

P: Thank you God for your forgiveness and promise to makes us new.

All: O come let us worship! Open our ears, hearts and minds, O Lord. Amen.

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,
 but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
 You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star,
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.
 who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,
 the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain,
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread,
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain
 All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.
 We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Reading***Romans 8:14-25***

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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.' "

Meditation

Pr. Karen Sonray

Special Music

El Shaddai

Roy Corral

Prayers/Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Song

We go out from this place, and we scat-ter like seeds,
scat-ter like seeds in the wind and your love sets us gent-ly down.
We are called to bring light to this world of con - fu-sion;
help us re-mem-ber this meal and this day as we go out from this place.
We are called to make jus - tice, we are called to bring peace, — to
reach out to those a - round us, to pray and lis - ten and teach. As
we go out from this place — and we scat-ter like seeds,
Help us re - mem - ber this meal and this day as we
car-ry your Word to the world.

Dismissal

Important! Today after worship

Please stay! Congregational Conversation

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) team is working to create a description of our congregation and the qualities we are looking for in a pastor. Potential candidates will be looking at this document to gain an understanding of who we are, where our passions lie and what type of leadership we are looking for, to see if he/she might be a fit.

Right after service this Sunday, the MSP team along with the Church Council, will be inviting you to share your thoughts. We want to keep the conversation focused on three areas:

- *Our Primary Goals*
- *Our Energy (What is our congregation really excited about right now?)*
- *Our Partnership (How do we see ourselves as an active participant in ELCA?)*

Please give these topics some thought.

We are happy to have an in-person conversation going! And we look forward to completing the MSP and moving on to the next phase of calling a pastor for Joy Lutheran.

-Your MSP Team (Jim Hemsath, Kristi Swain, and Betty Veldhuis)

Participate via ZOOM

The following is the complete invitation for zoom participation/observation on Sunday - we will only be able to take comments via the chat window.

To join zoom meeting, go to the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2826210862>

Meeting ID: 282 621 0862

And only via computer/internet (including access via iPhone or iPad)

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We will have extras if you do not have one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. We ask you leave 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household if you are sitting in the same row.
3. We are limiting our capacity to 50 people.
4. We are not using hymnals.
5. We will be initiating communion, practicing good protocol limited to wafers and no cup. This will be held monthly at first.
6. We will HUM rather than SING initially. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
7. We will limit the worship service to approximately 30 minutes, since the longer people share the same air space the odds of spreading germs increase.
8. We will not have any contact during the passing of the peace but will stay at 6 ft. distances- sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
9. Offering Plates are placed in stationary positions to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for giving your offerings there.
10. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the Offering Plate.
11. As you are dismissed, we will exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
12. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Disinfectant spray and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
13. Please do not linger too long in the Sanctuary. If you would like to visit, we suggest you do so outdoors while maintaining 6 ft. distances.
14. All coffee and food is suspended at this time.

Events in July

TODAY - Discussion after worship on Joy's ministry strengths and priorities

July 26 - Confirmation service - We will confirm 3 young people

Virtual VBS: "Splash in God's Love!"

- Thank you to all whom helped set up this week's online VBS. It was a phenomenal success! We had 15 families pick up 32 packets.

Thank you Nancy Wojnowski for today's music.