

THE 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church of Saint Catharines Ontario

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O God, because You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Titus 3: 3-7 Wednesday: Gal. 3: 26-29 Friday: Matt. 3: 13-17
Tuesday: 1 Pet. 3: 18-22 Thursday: Mark 16: 14-18 Saturday: Eph. 3: 14-21

Musicians: The Band
Reader: Fran Porteous
Greeter: Judy Slingerland

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 10 a.m.: Sunday Worship
Monday: 9 a.m. – noon: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Tuesday: 9 a.m. – noon: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – noon: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
5-5:30 p.m.: Hernder Estates Wines Farmers Market
Thursday: 9 a.m. – noon: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Friday: 9 a.m. – noon: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Closing Programme & BBQ to follow

July 2023 Worship Schedule

July 16 – Pentecost 7 Gospel Melodies Service of the Word [Band]
July 23 – Pentecost 8/Mary Magdalene Day Communion LSB Setting One
July 30 – Pentecost 9 Creative Morning Praise

August 2023 Worship Schedule

Aug 6 – Pentecost 10 LSB Setting 3
Aug 13 – Pentecost 11 Creative Worship Holy Communion
Aug 20 – Pentecost 12 Scripture & Song Service [The Band]
Aug 27 – Pentecost 13/ Communion LSB Setting One

CANVAS FOR A CAUSE: Join us **Wednesday, August 16, 7 p.m.** for a **“Paint Night”** in support of our SOUL program. Everyone will be guided through painting an 11x 14 acrylic landscape. All supplies and light refreshments will be provided. The cost is \$25 per person. Bring a friend and find your inner artist! See Jenn Hoeffs to register.

WWW.CANVASFORACAUSE.COM

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Vacation Bible School

“When life feels dark, Shine Jesus' Light!”



It's Here!

July 17-21

9 a.m. ~ 12 noon

Extended programme 12 noon to 4 p.m

Thursday at 2 p.m. “Tea and Tarts” at Luther Manor

COME AND MEET

“'COSMO', 'Ringo', 'Luna', 'Sol' & 'Halley'”

Register online at: <https://vbspro.events/p/c99985>



HERNDER ESTATE WINERY SUPPER MARKET:

Please join the Fellowship Committee on **Wednesday, July 19, 5-5:30 p.m.** We will meet at Hernder Estate Wines, 1607 Eighth Ave Louth. There is also a Farmers Market with local produce and crafters starting at 3 pm if you're interested in going early, followed by the Supper Market with food trucks at 4:30 pm, live entertainment from 5-8 pm. Amazing Food, free parking. Children and Pet Friendly.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR JASON GILLARD: August 27th, 4:00 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 15 Wexford Ave. S., in Hamilton. Saulo Bledoff will preach, Joel Kuhl will be the liturgist, Richard Juritsch will be the lector. A dinner will follow the service.

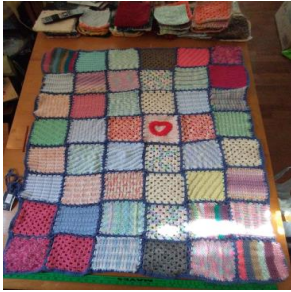
<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		July 9th, 2023		Attn: 9 a.m. – 81	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	1,623.00	119,978.91	(40,397.91)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	65.00	9,679.50	315.65
Property Improvement:			54.00	3,327.50	

2023/2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Christian education of our children is important to all of us. We are looking for people to help "team teach" our Sunday school children this year; September - December; January - June. If you are excited to share God's Word with inquisitive minds we invite you to speak with our Parish Education Chairman, Brandon Kemp, or Louise.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

PRAYER WARRIORS: Please keep in your prayers our VBS program and the children and families we will impact. We thank God in advance for bringing families to us that we can share the Good News of Jesus with them and help SHINE Jesus light of truth in their lives.

POWER POINT VOLUNTEERS: – The Worship Committee is urgently seeking two (2) volunteers to assist with the preparation of the weekly PowerPoint projection. Frequency of PowerPoint preparation would be on a rotating basis and dependent upon the number of helpers. PLEASE give prayerful consideration to serving our Lord in this capacity. For more information, please speak to Kathy Kuhl, Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd.



Granny Squares needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

GOSPEL TUNES SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

GOD WELCOMES US

BEGINNING SONG: *"Faith & Truth & Life Bestowing"*

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrit - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Text: © 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005575
<https://www.csmedia1.com/immanuelbelvidere.org/2023-06-04-ds1-hc.pdf>

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our God expresses graciously in His Word: whoever hides their sins will not do well;
But all who confess and turn away from them will experience mercy. [Prov. 28:13]

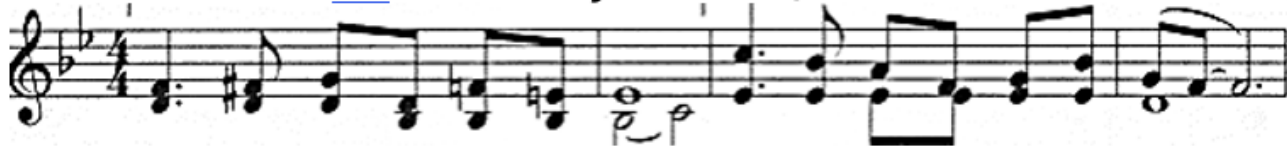
[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

God of grace, love and communion:

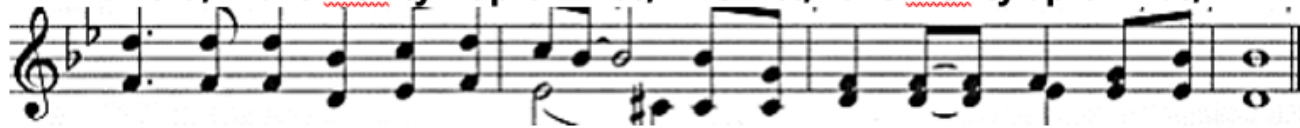
We confess that we have failed to love You with our whole heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ignore Your commandments, stray from Your ways, and follow other 'gods', whom we have believed will give us happiness. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and raise us up to new life, to a wise and good and true life full of Your grace, that we may serve You faithfully and give honour to Your holy Name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for You and for His sake, forgives you all of your sins. To all who believe in Christ, He comes to live in them, so that all may have life in His name. So in the place of Christ and by His Holy Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SUNG KYRIE *"To The Lord We Pray"* (Tune: "Just a closer walk with Thee")

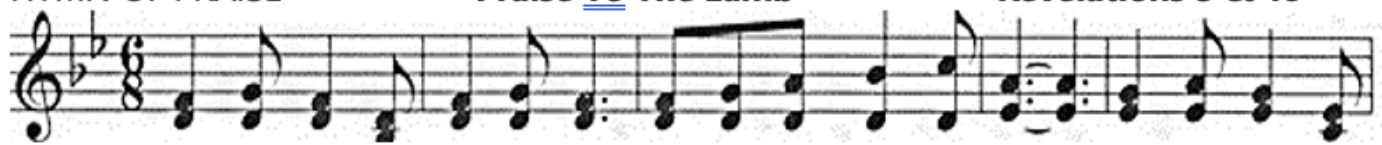


1. To the Lord we pray for peace, for the peace sent from a-bove,
2. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us,

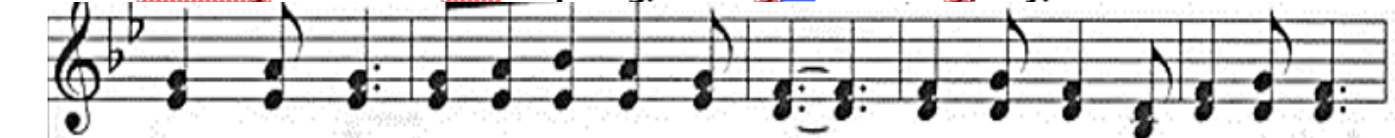


For the hope of this our world, for the church, please bless with Your love:
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us, give us peace, O Lord, give us peace.

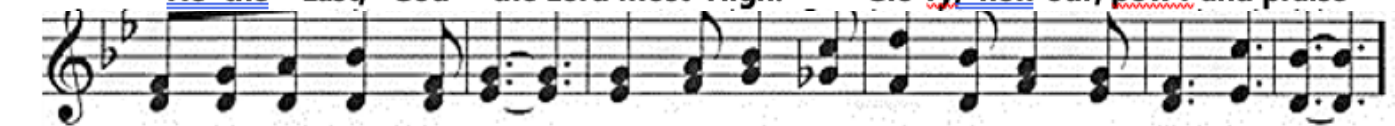
HYMN OF PRAISE *"Praise To The Lamb"* *Revelations 5 & 19*



Heav'nly hosts in wor-ship sing, Ho -- ly,-- Ho - ly, cry; He the First and



He the Last, God the Lord Most High. Glo-ry, hon-our, pow'r and praise



be to Him al-one! We, with all cre-ation fall, be-fore His throne.

Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; By His great
off-er-ing, we are set free!
Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb; Now and for-
ev - er - more! --- Praise to the Lamb!

Words: adapted & arranged by Rev. T. Hoeffs, 2017. Music: Just A Closer Walk & Love Lifted Me [www. Hymnary.org](http://www.Hymnary.org)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Kind and generous God, by Baptism, You have planted and watered the seed of Your Word in us. With the guiding Holy Spirit, use it to produce a rich harvest in us and through us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 55: 10-13*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Romans 8: 1-11*

[St. Paul writes:] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live

according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: *"Just A Closer Walk"*

I am weak, but Thou art strong; Je-sus keep me from all wrong—

I'll be sat-is-fied as long--; as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a clos-er walk with Thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;

Dai-ly walking close to Thee--, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

<https://namethathymn.com/christian-hymns/sheet-music/just-a-closer-walk-with-thee-sheet-music.pdf>

The Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'....'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG: *"Seed, Scattered & Sown"*

Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat gath-ered and grown,
bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the Liv-ing Bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is
shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

1. Is not the bread we break a shar-ing in our Lord?
2. The seed which falls on rock will with-er and will die.
3. As wheat up-on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,
Is not the cup we bless the Blood of Christ out-poured?
The seed with-in good ground will flow-er and have life.
So may the church of God be gath-ered in-to one.

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MESSAGE: *Matt. 13: 1-23 +*

"Cast Your Fate To The Wind..." "Vincent Van Gogh "The Sower" 1888

GOD RECEIVES OUR GIFTS & HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OFFERING SONG:

"Create In Me"

(Tune: Sweet Hour Of Prayer)



Cre -- ate in me, cre - ate in me, a clean heart Lord, cre-



-ate in me; re -- new a spir -- it right in me, cre -



-ate in me, cre -- ate in me. Your pres - ence ne'er de -



-part from me, Your Spir - it ne'er re—move from me, re--

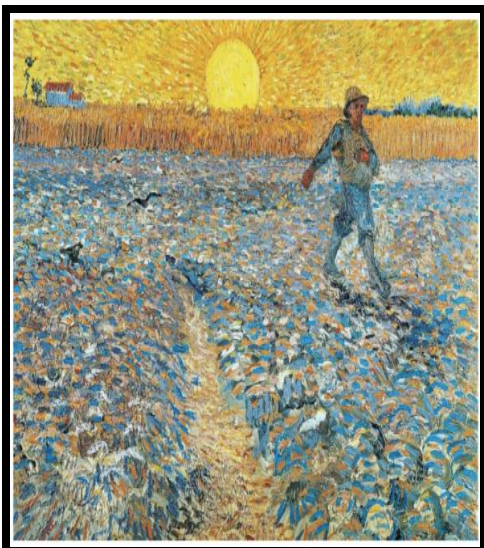


-store to me Your joy so free! Cre --ate in me, cre - ate in me.

Words: Ps. 51, adapted & arranged by Rev. T. Hoeffs, 2017. Music: William Bradbury, 1861, Sweet Hour, LMD – reprinted: www.hymnary.org/hymn/CGH2010/page/386

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

PRAYERS



Relying on the promises of God our Father, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microcosms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Uphold and strengthen all who hold office and authority that they govern responsibly.

Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (especially we remember...).

Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with strife, abuse, neglect or severe disability. Equip ministries and services to families both in the church and in the community.

Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.

Hear us, O God -- **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. 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

CLOSING PRAYER:

Gracious God, Father of the universe, as Eternal light, shine into our hearts; as eternal goodness in Christ, deliver us from evil, in Your eternal power, be our support, with Your Spirit's eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our fears, as eternal compassion, have mercy upon us; that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite peace into your holy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREETING & BLESSING:

Let us praise the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: *"Jesus Is Lord Of All"* © 1973 Gaither music



1. All my to - mor - rows, all my past, Je - sus is Lord _ of
2. All of my con - flicts, all my thoughts, Je - sus is Lord _ of
3. All of my long - ings, all my dreams, Je - sus is Lord _ of



all. _____ I've quit my strug - gles, con - tent - ment at last,
all. _____ His love wins the bat - tles I could not have fought,
all. _____ All _____ my fail - ures His pow - er re - deems,



Je - sus is Lord _ of all. _____ King of kings, Lord of
Je - sus is Lord _ of all. _____
Je - sus is Lord _ of all. _____



lords, Je - sus is Lord _ of all; _____ All my pos -



-ses - sions and all my life, Je - sus is Lord _ of all. _____



REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 7

Matt. 13:1-23

“Cast Your Fate to The Wind”

July 16, 2023

I'm not a good gardener.

I don't really enjoy it.

I appreciate flowers, fresh vegetables, and green grass, but weeding or planting and caretaking takes time and talent.

[Jokingly, I'd tell people, gardening is too much like ministry!]

I can keep those leafy hostas alive, but that's about it.

In the ancient world farming could be hard work and unpredictable. Crop preparation involved digging the soil with a stick-like plough, with stones, rocks and last years' crop stubble in the furrows. Common crops were barley in poor soil, wheat in good soil.

Israel also had vineyards, fruit and olive trees. Farmers usually planted seeds singly.

So Jesus' hearers would be shocked to hear of a farmer scattering seeds

All over the field. Seeds would be costly and nothing you'd want to waste. expensive, not something to waste. The seed gets sown at enormous risk. One would wonder why waste seeds on rocky, dry or thorny soil. The sower tosses it all over the place.

Some lands on rocky ground where it can't take root. Some is eaten up by birds.

Some of it falls in weedy areas getting choked out by thorns. What a waste!

Jesus is using this sower image for Himself, sharing the Good News seeds of His Heavenly Kingdom. A haphazard seed Sower would've been odd. Like when I heard this week about AMAZON. They purposely sell too many books online cheaply, even at a loss,

Just to have repeat customers buying other things in greater supply!

By our standards, Jesus might not be a good sower, but He is extravagantly generous.

Jesus' goodness and generosity does not depend on us. He is good when we are not.

Jesus sows whether we're ready to receive or not. It might seem like that would waste a lot of seed, But the seed of His Gospel message is without limits.

The word of the Lord accomplishes what it sets out to do. It never comes back empty.

Jesus' faithfulness and goodness is as regular as the rain coming down from heaven.

Seeds are planted and grow because that's what they do. Since the sower of seed is our Lord and the seed is His Good news of salvation, the soil are those who receive the seed.

It's dropped right into their lives. All followers and believers in Jesus are also sowers of seed.

All of us who are seeded and nourished and baptized and Spirit filled

Are invited to scatter seeds of the Gospel far and wide. All the different soils show us the

varieties of peoples' hearts. The shallow people, who hear the good news,

Maybe like it at first, then move on and live as if nothing's changed,

Forgetting about it as difficulties arise. Or are we people who hear the word but don't take it to heart, who think faith and worship and a church home aren't for them?

They're ok with a disjointed Body of Christ. Or thorny soil, overwhelmed with busyness and a million other things. This famous Vincent Van Gogh painting, The one pictured in your bulletin, Shows a very muddied looking field with a seed scattering farmer – With one v shaped row in the front of the painting – The only part OPEN to seeds.

Behind this sower is a bright yellow sun-saturated sky, Yellow waves of grain, And a small yellow area for seeds to take root.

Truth is, when we're honest, we, too, are all of these soils.

There are days when you and I feel like great soil open to God; and then there are days when we just feel dried out, when we need God's help just to get out of bed.

We usually want to be good soil, but on those days and in those seasons of life when we're not, we can find hope and renewed energy that the Divine Sower sows even where we're stubbornly rocky. God doesn't give up on us when we're thorny, rocky or dried out.

The Holy Spirit through that scattered Gospel seed softens our hearts and inspires faith.

Most gardeners will tell you that good soil has great depth and natural materials:

decayed things like grass roots and leaves, old stalks, dried out grain heads—

that encourages good health and abundant growth. [In MB many a crop could be smelled burning after the fall harvest.] Good soil has room for water and air to move through it—

Nourishing the seeds that become roots. That's an important faith life lesson:

good soil is the result of letting some things go, die even, perhaps getting burned away and allowing room for new life. Our hearts are no different. To receive the Good news of the kingdom,

To have those seeds thrive within, we have to let some old, false ideas go, even die. Letting the fake props that hold us up get taken away,

Or the things we trust more than God, Get all burned away, so we may be healthy again.

The Gospel is the only life-giving, life-promoting source of rescue. When we see growth this way, who'd want to ever remain stagnant. From good, Spirit sent soil can create in us good

seed scatterers. Just as good blooming plants re-seed themselves and keep on growing.

Rather than reason it away that seeding isn't needed, we only sow the seed and trust the harvest. Our sowing is carefree like Jesus. He flings seeds of the Gospel and healing and miracles High and wide, caring not for where is lands.

We often don't seed any new growth from seeds, So it's easy getting discouraged.

Scattering the seed isn't the problem; hoarding the seeds,

Letting them sit on a shelf and get dusty is the problem. You are made into good soil.

You can trust the seed, and trust the growth. The Gospel seed is so powerful, so precious, We just can't hold onto it; Try holding a bunch of seed in your hand.

They run out between the fingers before you even throw it on the ground.

To hold onto the seed would be to squander it.

Fling the seed as you goes, letting it land where it will, and keep going.

Nowhere is it written in Scripture that we as sowers must be concerned

About who is deserving of the Gospel and who isn't. Jesus' didn't heal the healthy, but the sick. He fed the needy, the hungry, the outcasts, the lonely, sad and depressed.

Jesus Himself even gets buried like a seed in the soil of a grave,

After suffering and dying, and from that sowing, God brings forth a fantastic resurrection harvest. **We know Jesus Christ and we know that the place to see what real**

recklessness looks like is the cross with his body hanging on it. The sower who won't

be careful with the seed is Jesus, who won't in the end be careful even with his own life.

But from his resurrection from the dead comes the bountiful harvest. From his resurrection has come forgiveness and reconciliation with God. As good soil and good sowers of Gospel, We are becoming more open and receptive.

Letting hurtful ideas die, and welcoming all that is life-giving making room for others to hear this Gospel and believe. We need not concern ourselves about whether the soil

We're walking over is good or bad, receptive or not. Don't save up seed for the places you think will be the most fertile. The Gospel does no good just sitting around.

It is lived, shared and enjoyed! One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth.

Not every bit of fruitful sowing is going to happen in the tidy rows of our pews, although by God's grace in the message of Christ it happens here.

There is so much seed to be sown. Fling it. Toss it. Share it. Get out there. Sow.

Every Christian person is a witness. Every Christian person is an Gospel seed scatterer.

We are all called together to lift up the faith that sustains us. We do this in conversation when we get the chance. We do this by showing mercy and kindness. Inviting them to join us for a church service Or to help on a project Or pray for future mission and growth in faith; So all of us together can share the seeds of bread which carries Jesus' Body Into our mouth and the grapes which hold the Blood of Jesus, Nourishing our Gospel rich soil. And our Lord knows that in the cold culture where we find ourselves today mercy and kindness will often just confuse the people around us and give us the chance to break into their confusion and say a good word for Jesus.

We lift up the faith that sustains us where we are, when we can, and we do this, again, without being anxious about our own success or failure.

A good listening ear. A helping hand.

Checking in on people to see how they're doing.

Caring enough to show you care. We never know what can happen.

It might look and feel reckless, or a waste, or hopeless, but no one has ever been hurt by kindness or love.

As much as I am not a gardener in the end of the day,

I scattered the little paper wildflower seed bombs we made with SOUL this spring –

And they ARE actually growing.

And we are all actually growing Gospel seed soil.

Scattering to be gathered.

Amen.

Summer Time Word Find

L L G P O L B U E L R I A H C G N I D L O F L E
 B B Y S Q E S P N L N L N W S S F A R M I N G I
 H I A K L M W B V A C A T I O N B B B R V H X C
 U R L R R O K G X B P I T O W E L Q C A B I N E
 U R L O C N V Y R E E D I L S R E T A W S S S C
 B K E W R A B E A S G J Y C I N C I P X N W V R
 O H R E E D A C T A B C A M P I N G W X E I S E
 A C B R L E C D A B Z G N I N N A T F Y E M R A
 T A M I O I K R O Q T M T D K W R X F D R M E M
 I E U F O F Y A B E H Y B K K A B Y L N C I W G
 N B A N C W A O L L U U P I A L M J I I S N O G
 G J N Z B G R B I T N F X L L E O O P W N G L N
 S B B N A R D F A S D E G N I H S I F I U Y F I
 L I C N T E Q R S A E E B V F T Q R L Q S N J N
 L N R F H E X U S C R E A B E G U O O T N I E E
 E O S L I N C S P D S R R U G N I L P L E A L D
 H C C O N G O B R N T T B B U I T G S F D R C R
 S U L W G R O U I A O M E B A W O W U J R X I A
 A L O E S A K C N S R L C L R O D O C K A Y S G
 E A U R U S O K K O M A U E D M I C K R G G P C
 S R D P I S U E L A C P E S C B I C Y C L E O E
 B S Y O T H T T E E S U N G L A S S E S Z S P Y
 P V Z T W A T E R M E L O N M S C A M P F I R E
 X K J J E B E A C H H A T W W G N I T N U H K I

tanning
 fishing
 campfire
 dock
 ice cream
 bubbles
 swimming
 folding chair
 bucket

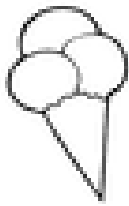
lifeguard
 cloudy
 backyard
 flower pot
 waterslide
 cabin
 bathing suit
 watermelon
 towel

beach hat
 baseball
 mowing the lawn
 thunderstorm
 lemonade
 gardening
 fireworks
 hunting
 flip flops

sunscreen
 beach
 cooler
 farming
 bicycle
 windy
 vacation
 garden
 mosquito

boating
 sandcastle
 surfboard
 umbrella
 binoculars
 picnic
 popsicle
 rainy
 sprinkler

flowers
 green grass
 sunglasses
 palm tree
 sailboat
 camping
 seashells
 cookout
 barbecue



SUMMER WORDSEARCH



B S Z D W X B Z R N U W O P O O L J S B
 T U O K O O C B E D A N O M E L Z E A A
 K X I N H C A E B S S I A A Q O V N I R
 Z B G N I K I H E A U S P K M V T I L B
 E L C I S P O P D M U N E A A L R H I E
 H C S E Q W X V T N G Q G C L X A S N C
 W X T W H X E R S R G A A L F J V N G U
 X I R M I N E C E O X T A E A M E U A E
 K I J K T M R L W W I W X H O S L S W N
 U O J U W E M A S O O V A S U C S B W P
 F T R J E V Y I N U A L D R T M E E W D
 S E Z N I N J U N P M L F H M C I A S Y
 F G G A T V W M Y G K M M N O I U D N C
 L L A B E S A B W C H C E X U O N H N C
 A T A M C F P J U U Z P I R J S J Z W I
 D F K S P H R U J U L Y F O U R T H E N
 S X M F A V F Y G E G T K G G P X Q J C
 B A G H E F T X P M A C W S I N N E T I
 N G N T V O A N O L E M R E T A W U B P
 Q T J D H J G E V A W T A E H X Z I R G

WORD LIST

ADVENTURE
 BARBECUE
 BASEBALL
 BEACH
 CAMP
 COOKOUT
 HEATWAVE
 HIKING

HOT
 HUMID
 JULY FOURTH
 KITE
 LEMONADE
 OCEAN
 PICNIC
 POOL

POPSICLE
 SAILING
 SAND
 SUMMER
 SUNFLOWER
 SUNGLASSES
 SUNSCREEN

SUNSHINE
 SWIMMING
 TENNIS
 TRAVEL
 VACATION
 WARM
 WATERMELON