

WHEN THE WHEAT GROWS WITH THE WEEDS



Union Creek Lutheran Church

July 19, 2026

Naomi Graves, Worship Leader

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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Naomi Graves, Worship Leader

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 when 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.

* Indicates congregation stands as you are able

Italics = Pastor

Bold = Congregation

Prelude

Announcements

Birthday Wishes

Max Vreugdenhil-22; Selene Van Wyk-23

(Sung to the tune of Happy Birthday)

**God bless you today, God bless you always,
God bless you and keep you, another year through.**

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Ringling of the Bell

Offering & Attendance

Sunday, July 12
Attendance: 50 / Offering: \$1,137
We are always grateful for your continued offerings and support!

Union Creek Communications

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07.19.26 Greeters: Bruce/Patti Usher/Bell: Bruce Lector: Patti Fellowship: Bruce/Patti	07.26.26 Greeters: Tom/Heather Usher/Bell: Tom Lector: Heather Communion: Heather Fellowship: Tom/Heather
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Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 19

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Naomi Graves will be leading worship and preaching

Mike Pedersen, Organist

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, July 26

Pastor April Peterson

Mike Pedersen, Organist

9:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Noisy Offering: Motor bike for a pastor

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Meat Sticks Sale

The youth are selling their remaining meat sticks for \$1.25 each.

Our Prayer Concerns

Carol Forslund and her family, the Family of Ione Lucht,
 Kristal McKee, Joann Hedeby, Elaine Swift, Ron Siemers,
 Becky Kjose, PeeWee Kincaid, Marilyn Heeren, Dylan Haverhals,
 Penny & Richard Britt, Doug Eckmann, and Netti Dunham

** Confession & Forgiveness*

*Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
 whose compassion endures forever.*

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

We confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy,

and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

*Jesus says, "Come to me,
 all you who are weary
 and are carrying heavy burdens,
 and I will give you rest."*

*In the name of God,
 the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
 our sins are forgiven.
 Rest in God's love.*

Amen.

** Gathering Hymn #526*

"God is Here!"

** Pastoral Greeting*

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

And also with you.

**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, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon with Naomi

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

(There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.)

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?^[a]

Let them tell us^[b] 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.

Responsive Reading: 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.

*God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace, **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 Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

** Our Lord's Prayer*

** Benediction*

Creator, Redeemer,

Sustainer, † one God,

bless, heal, and hold you, today and always.

Amen.

** Closing Hymn #536*

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

** Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Please join us for fellowship following worship

Offertory Prayer

Generous God,

We thank you for your endless blessings and faithfulness. As we bring our offerings today, we dedicate not just these gifts, but our very lives to your service. May our time, talents, and resources multiply to bless our community and build your kingdom. In Jesus' name, 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, **hear our prayer.***

*God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen: the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness, injury or grief. We pray especially for Carol Forslund and her family, the family of Ione Lucht, Kristal McKee, Joann Hedeby, Elaine Swift, Ron Siemers, Becky KJose, PeeWee Kincaid, Marilyn Heeren, Dylan Haverhals, Penny & Richard Britt, Doug Eckmann, and Nettie Dunham. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

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

(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.)

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 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.

** Gospel Acclamation* “Holy, Holy”

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty;
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love,
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

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

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

Spoken response after the announcement:

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ He put before them 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!

Spoken response after the conclusion:

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Message

Hymn of the Day #516

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

** Apostles’ Creed*

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Presentation of our Offerings

Offertory Response #689

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**