



# Union Lutheran Church

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## 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (Schack)

### GATHERING

- \* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness LBW p. 56
- \* HYMN: *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* LBW# 234
- \* Greeting (*Kyrie is omitted during Pentecost*) LBW p. 57
- \* Hymn of Praise (*"All Glory Be to God" stanza 1...*) LBW# 166

**C All glory be to God on high, And thanks to him forever!  
 Whatever Satan's host may try, God foils their dark endeavor.  
 He bends his ear to ev'ry call, And offers peace, goodwill to all,  
 And calms the troubled spirit.**

- \* Salutation LBW p. 62
- \* Prayer of the Day

### WORD

Children's Message

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 119:57-64 *read responsively*

L <sup>57</sup>You only are my portion, O LORD;  
I have promised to keep your words.

C <sup>58</sup>**I entreat you with all my heart,  
be merciful to me according to your promise.**

L <sup>59</sup>I have considered my ways  
and turned my feet toward your decrees.

C <sup>60</sup>**I hasten and do not tarry  
to keep your commandments.**

L <sup>61</sup>Though the cords of the wicked entangle me,  
I do not forget your law.

C <sup>62</sup>**At midnight I will rise to give you thanks,  
because of your righteous judgments.**

L <sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all who fear you  
and of those who keep your commandments.

C <sup>64</sup>**The earth, O LORD, is full of your love;  
instruct me in your statutes.**

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:18-27

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L Here ends the reading.

\* Gospel Acclamation(“*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*” stanza 1 ...) LBW# 230

C **Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; Curb those who by deceit  
or sword Would wrest the kingdom from your Son And bring to  
nought all he has done.**

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>24</sup>Jesus put another parable before {the disciples}, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but

while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *Faith and Familiarity*

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* HYMN: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

WOV# 713

\* Apostles’ Creed

LBW p. 65

\* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 65-66

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Youth Missions & Retreat Fund. During the month of July, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on India Transformed. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *Sing to the Lord a New Song*

Chancel Choir

MEAL

\* Offertory (“*We Give Thee but Thine Own*” stanza 1)

LBW# 410

C **We give thee but thine own, Whate’er the gift may be; All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

\* Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 67

\* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 68

\* Sanctus (“*Holy, Holy, Holy*” stanza 1)

LBW# 165

C **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

- \* Words of Institution LBW p. 69
- \* Lord's Prayer LBW p. 71
- Lamb of God ("*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*") LBW# 103

**C O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Grant us thy peace! Amen**

Distribution of Communion

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

- \* Blessing LBW p. 72
- \* Post-Communion Canticle ("*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*" stanza 1) LBW# 221

**C Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing, The people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe. The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching, Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.**

- \* Post-Communion Prayer LBW p. 74

SENDING

- \* Benediction LBW p. 74
- \* HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving* LBW# 409

\* Sending

**P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations**

**C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!**

**C Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Almighty God Your Word is Cast* (Sedio)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 (p. 56-76)  
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# Union News

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## Sunday, July 23

**8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** Produce Market

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

God's Plan for Abraham ~ Genesis 12:1-8, 22:1-14

*How precious is Your steadfast love, O God.* (Psalm 36:7)

Adult Sunday School Class:

Weeds Among the Wheat ~ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 119:57-64, Romans 8:18-27, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon: *Faith and Familiarity*

**12 noon** Produce Market

*Deadline for August Messenger articles.*

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## This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, July 25

6:30 p.m. 90 Days in large Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 26

10:30 a.m. 90 Days in large Fellowship Hall

4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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## Sunday, July 30

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

The Passover Lamb ~ Exodus 12:1-13, 29-42

*You shall be My treasured possession.* (Exodus 19:5)

Adult Sunday School Class: Finding & Gathering ~ Matthew 13:44-52

**9:30 a.m.** Good Timers preparations for service in the Sanctuary

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Good Timers are leading the worship service!

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Psalm 125:1-5, Romans 8:28-39, Matthew 13:44-52

Sermon: *The Nature of Heaven*

Judy Boyd has reserved the small fellowship hall following worship.

Following lunch, Middle & High School Youth will have a swim party at Genevieve Baker's (2550 Faith Road, 28146)

*Altar Flowers are open for reservations for Sunday, July 30.*

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*Please remember to keep Mary Hutchens in your thoughts and prayers as she witnesses to the people of Slovakia from July 13-31.*  
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**Congregational Meeting** will be held **Sunday, August 6**; to the congregation as a recommendation from the Council to vote to accept the contract as written before it is signed, sealed and delivered to Carolina Quarries Inc. This will be a YES/NO vote and no other motions or items will be discussed. Your attendance is appreciated.

**Those Serving in July**

**Acolytes:** Bailey and Lucas Wilhelm

**Altar Guild:** Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:**

Janice Goodman, Patsy Lyerly, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Lay Readers** Lucinda Fraley, Ethan, Ellie, Bailey and Lucas Wilhelm

**Ushers:** Phil Cauble, Larry Barringer, Ali Davis, and Frank Merrell

**Offering Counters:** Tara Davis, Cathy Painter, and Ron Vellines

*If you are unable to serve on a Sunday scheduled, please find replacement and contact the church office by the Wednesday before with the name.*

*In the weekly bulletin & news, names are listed of those serving because it's a gentle reminder and helps connect names and faces!*

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**90 Days Spiritual Fitness** will continue during the month of August on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Food will be provided.

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**August Choirs Schedule**

**Wednesday, August 2**

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus ~ 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

**Sunday, August 6**

4:00 p.m. Belles & Beaus ~ 5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**Wednesdays, August 16 & 23**

No Choirs rehearsals

**Wednesday, August 30**

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus ~ 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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**Sunday, August 6**

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

Slaying the Giant ~ 1 Samuel 17:4-18, 38-51

*Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome.* (Nehemiah 4:14)

Adult Sunday School Class: Inheriting the Kingdom ~ Galatians 5:13-26

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26, Romans 9:1-13, Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon: *Feeding the Five Thousand*

**10:30 a.m.** Recognition of 2022-2023 Sunday School Teachers & Officers

Called Congregational meeting following worship (see article)

**2:00 p.m.** Christian Ed, Sunday School & Youth

**4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Union & Salem Middle/High School Youth

**4:00 p.m.** Belles & Beaus

**5:00 p.m.** Chancel Choir

*Matt & Jill Miller have reserved the Altar Flowers for Sunday, August 6.*

NALC Convocation “God the Father” in Oklahoma, OK, August 7-11  
Delegates: Pastor Heidi Punt, Mary Hutchens with Frank Merrell, Alternate

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**Please note change in location: *Mary & Martha Circle* will meet at Frances Norris’ home on Tuesday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m.**  
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How does Miss NC 1934 connect with Union Lutheran Church? To find out join the Good Timers on **Thursday, August 10, at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Old Pine Center** for the first part of a two-part series.

Thank you to Steven Arey for facilitating this fascinating program.

The group will eat lunch at a local restaurant following the program.

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*In preparation for Homecoming, a **Church Workday** has been scheduled for Saturday, August 12, at 9:00 a.m. We need YOUR help!!*  
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Homecoming 2023 at Union Lutheran Church will be **Sunday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m.** Union Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 249th anniversary! During the service we will be dedicating our new choir robes.

We are excited to have Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder as our guest pastor!

A covered dish lunch will follow worship in the large Fellowship Hall. Chicken, Beverages, and paper products will be provided. **The congregation is requested to bring your favorite meat, sides, and desserts to share.**

Following lunch the Middle & High School Youth and parents are encouraged to assist in cleanup.

Invite family, friends and former members now to be with us for this special occasion on Sunday, August 13. This is a wonderful time to renew old relationships, update what is going on in the lives of others that have been special to us, and to form new relationships. Plan now to be a part of our Homecoming!

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**Sunday, August 13**

Homecoming

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

Delivered from the Lions ~ Daniel 6:1-23

*You are the God who works wonders.* (Psalm 77:14)

Adult Sunday School Class:

The Nature of the Kingdom ~ Romans 14:10-23

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion with Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder

Job 38:4-18, Psalm 18:1-16, Romans 10:5-17, Matthew 14:22-33

**10:30 a.m.** Dedication of new Choir Robes

Returning to LBW Setting 1 liturgical setting

Covered Dish Lunch following worship in the large fellowship hall.

**2:00 p.m.** Social Ministry Committee

**4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Little Lutherans (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger)

*Sharon Leazer has reserved the Altar Flowers for Sunday, August 13.*

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

**Nursing Home Residents** – Brenda Mahaley, Pat Miller, Ruth Monroe & Jean Ray (Autumn Care)

**Homebound Members** – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy Kerns, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Larry Barringer, Nancy Kesler, Joan Kerns, John Knight, Sharon Moore, William & Doris Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Dalton Thompson & Wayne Vellines

**Continual Prayer** – Braxton (grandson of the Blue Waters Roseman Family), Evonne Batten, Nancy Ballew (Kat Clifton's mother), Pr. Cassie Boehringer and her husband, Derek, have a young daughter who is Judson Merrell's associate at St. Peter's Lexington, SC (NALC), Pr. George Bradshaw (Junior Morgan's Pastor Friend), Bill Broadway, Glenn Eagle, Earleene Goodman (Tommy Goodman's mother), Nickie Hedrick (Cathy Painter's friend & co-worker), Pat Kluttz, Glenn & Betty Sue Lowder, Della Morgan (Pam Vellines' mother), Tim Shue (Larry & Karen Barringer's friend), Effie Vellines, Union Fire Department #76, NALC Leadership, Pastor Kalonji and Pastor Nuottila (Congo), Haiti (gangs) & those affected by natural or political disasters

**Confirmation Students:** Caylea Cline & Mallory Eagle

### *Stewardship Update*

<i>Sunday School (7/16)</i>	27
<i>Worship &amp; Holy Communion (7/16)</i>	104
<i>Current Offering received (7/16)</i>	\$5,918.00
<i>2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan</i>	\$6,482.37

### **How Can You Serve?**

The **Sunday School Classes** invite the congregation to serve the community during the month of July by providing snacks for the Union Firefighters.

Donate something easy to grab and go for their calls.

Please place items on the pew outside of the church office.

Everyone is invited to participate!

### ***PART THREE: What is the Divine Service? (Part 1)***

*The Lutheran understanding of worship is expressed in the Divine Service. We follow this order not because we believe it is the only right way but because we believe this ancient pattern of worship more clearly and beautifully serves the purpose of worship, to deliver the gracious gifts of God.*



(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 2)