

PLATTVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5475 Bell Road
Minooka, Illinois 60447

July 19, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Eighth Sunday after
Pentecost

O, COME LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

* Indicates that the congregation will stand.

PREPARATION Enter to worship
THE PRELUDE/BELL RINGING

Synod Authorized
Minister
Henrik Christopherson

Announcements

*The CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94

*The OPENING HYMN

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" #597

*The APOSTOLIC GREETING p. 98

*The KYRIE p. 98

Ministers
All Members

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Lector
Erica LeRoy

* The HYMN OF PRAISE p. 99

*The PRAYER OF THE DAY *Celebrate insert*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Head Ushers
Darrell Hansen
Bob Bols
Bruce Knudson

The FIRST LESSON Isaiah 44:6-8

The PSALM Psalm 86 *Celebrate insert*

The SECOND LESSON Romans 8:12-25

The ALLELUIA VERSE p. 102

*The HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
SERMON

Church Office
475-7220

*The HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter" #681

*The APOSTLES' CREED p. 105

*The PRAYERS

*The SHARING OF THE PEACE

The OFFERING

*The OFFERTORY "Create in Me" *Insert in pew*

*The OFFERTORY PRAYER p. 107

*The LORD'S PRAYER p. 112

BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE

*The BENEDICTION

*The CLOSING HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation" #679

*The DISMISSAL/POSTLUDE

Depart to serve



Celebrate

Sunday, July 19, 2026
8th Sunday after Pentecost

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, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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.

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.

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.

or Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 [not printed]

God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope indicate that God's faithful people must also show kindness. No other god cares for all people.



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

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. R**

¹³For 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.**

¹⁵But 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.**

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. **R**

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.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, 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 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 we in fact 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

continued

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 enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it

suffers together the pains of labor, 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 one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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.

[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.'"

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!"

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

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 in 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 or injury. (*We pray especially for . . .*) 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 Christ Jesus.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 75. **Tuesday** Zephaniah 3:1-13. **Wednesday** (Mary Magdalene, Apostle) John 20:1-2, 11-18. **Thursday** (commemoration of Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373) Psalm 119:129-136. **Friday** Acts 7:44-53. **Saturday** (James, Apostle) Mark 10:35-45. **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

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PARISH CALENDAR

*"There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day,
and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain" Isaiah 4:6*

Today 9:15 Worship. Fellowship in basement following service.

Tuesday, July 21st 9:30 am Grace Circle at church

Summer fellowship is here! See sign up sheet on bulletin board.
Thank you!

School kits: Back to school supplies are on sale! For our LWR school kits, we only need notebooks (4-70 sheet spiral notebooks - wide or college ruled), pens (5 black or blue ballpoint, no gel ink) and pencils (5 unsharpened #2 with erasers). Walmart has spiral notebooks on sale for 35 cents each. Thank you!

Want to hear and sing your favorite hymn? There is a box in the entryway - fill out a sheet with what you want to hear.

July 12th offering: Current \$1,446.00 Mission \$140.00
Bldg Fund \$110.00

Thank you for your support!

*"A farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer" -
Will Rogers*



Deep-Seeded Grace

The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame. That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?