

**United Methodist Church
Minden, Nebraska
7th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m.
July 16, 2023**

Message
“Sowing Seed is Never a Waste of Time”
Pastor Peter Choi

Joys and Concerns

Happy Birthday to Bobbie Heitman, Doug Fellers, Leslie Lambert, and Susan Tunnell.

Prayer List: Libby Williams, Marjorie Hultquist, Larry Anderson, Fred Will, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, and John Burnham.

Pastoral Prayer—The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Music

“Doxology “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, we offer you these gifts of love. We are grateful for the extravagant grace that you have shown us in Jesus Christ, and we **now** return a portion of this abundance to you. Guide us to use it wisely for the building of your kingdom and for the proclamation of the gospel around the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song “Believe” #29

Benediction

As you have received the seeds of faith and hope; go now into God’s world to scatter the seeds of reconciliation and peace to all whom you meet. God in peace and may God’s peace be with you. AMEN.

Sending Forth

Postlude

Lena Choi

Prelude

Lena Choi

Welcome and Announcements

1. Kelly Wagner, Founder and CEO of Hope for Liberia will join our church on July 23 for our regular worship. Ashley and Kelly will share the ministry of orphaned children in Liberia and tell what God is doing in this ministry.
2. Mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday. It will be held on July 30th during our regular worship service.
3. We will have NO Bible study, “Threading the Bible” for two weeks.
4. Please continue to bring rummage sale items. We're accepting donations of clean and gently used items in room 103, located on the south side of the church. Our Annual Rummage Sale starts on August 15.
5. There will be a blessing of the backpacks and the school year during the regular worship on August 13. Please bring all students with backpacks to the worship.
6. If you'd like to volunteer as a scripture reader, usher, greeter, or refreshment host, we invite you to find the clipboards located at the back of the church.
7. Following the worship service, we invite you to join us in room 300 for a time of socializing and refreshments.

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to the seed-scattering station!

P: We thought this was the church! What's this "seed-scattering"?

L: We are called to be the place where the loving, redeeming word of God is shared.

P: Oh! We need to hear about this love.

L: Open your hearts and lives, dear friends, for God's word for you.

P: Lord, make us ready to receive your word and feel our healing presence. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed.

AMEN.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Opening Songs "How Great Is Our God" #4
"Everlasting God" #9

Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Apostle Creed (Ecumenical Version)

UMH#882

Scriptures

Julie Ratka

Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 (NIV)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.