

Excelsior United Methodist Church

July 13, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Leader / People *People who able, please stand

Large print hymnals are available

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kim Tyre

You set before us, O God, the abundant earth, and the struggles of life.

You set within us, O God, the challenge to grow.

You are our God. We are your people.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER TO BEGIN

O God, we are challenged by the teachings of Jesus. What are we to make of the parable of the sower? Are the understandings of our childhood good enough for today? Is there anything here that speaks to today's world and today's problems? Guide us in our worship and our search for meaning today...

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE No. 328 *Surely the Presence of the Lord*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (The Parable of the Sower)

SPECIAL MUSIC *If With All Your Hearts* by Felix Mendelssohn
Rhoda Brooks and Rhonda Studer

CHILDREN'S TIME

MEDITATION "Being Seeds"

Kent Johnson

HYMN NO. 583 *You Are the Seed*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Lo, A Voice to Heaven Sounding* by Dimitri Bortniansky
Rhoda Brooks and Rhonda Studer

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, we have been give all the gifts we need for this life. But we pray you will fill us with your Life Spirit. As we share these financial resources with the church may they bring more life and hope to your world as they are used. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN NO. 601 *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

~ WELCOME VISITORS ~

We are glad you are here and we hope you return.
Please check for information at the Visitors' Center in the narthex
and introduce yourself to others so we can get to know you.

Mission and Vision Statements

The mission of EUMC is to be a welcoming Christian community
that helps connect faith journeys with life's journey
and inspires sharing of time, talents and treasures.

Our vision is to be an intergenerational Christian family
that nurtures the journey of faith and service to transform the world.

Reconciling Church Statement

Excelsior United Methodist Church believes that we are all children of God and
individuals of sacred worth. We affirm Jesus' example of love without reservation
and covenant to deal compassionately and justly with each other. We welcome
and affirm persons of any age, gender, race, ethnic origin, economic reality, family
status, sexual orientation, diverse ability or social standing as full participants in the
life and work of this reconciling congregation.

***One set of altar flowers today are given by Bill & Kristie Lester in
celebration of their 30th Wedding Anniversary.***

Pastor: Kent Johnson

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: Nate Melcher

Music Director: Gail Fisk **Organist:** Jane Kuhn

Office Administrator: Sarah Lockwood

Building Closer: John Peichel

Offering Counters: Tim Mahoney & Mary Bentley

Ushers: Lynne Farrell, Barney & Helen Leach and Chuck Welle

Greeter: Kim Tyre

Attendance at last week's worship service: 115

July 13, 2008

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost