

Excelsior United Methodist Church

July 27, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Leader / People

**People who able, please stand*

Large print hymnals are available

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 105)

O give thanks to the Lord, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the Lord; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord's strength and presence continually.

Praise God, whose judgments are in all the earth.

CALL TO SILENT PRAYER

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 LESSONS Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33

Jennifer Rosengren

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Prayer

Abbi Doyle, Emily Danser & Molly Dupuis

CHILDREN'S TIME

MEDITATION

"Persevere through Prayer"

Kent Johnson

HYMN NO. 451 *Be Thou My Vision*

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you search the recesses of our minds and the depths of our hearts. You call us to be not only givers but also receivers of your gift of grace. We believe that you will multiply our gifts to draw us nearer to your side. As we offer these financial gifts, we are grateful to be joined to the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN NO. 103 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*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 Todd & Lisa Wagner in
celebration of their 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 Grimm

Offering Counters: Tim Mahoney & Kurt Jewell

Ushers: Marty Zielinski, Peter Cleaveland, James Gagnon & John Babbs

Greeter: Jennifer Rosengren

Attendance at last week's worship service: 129

July 27, 2008

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

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