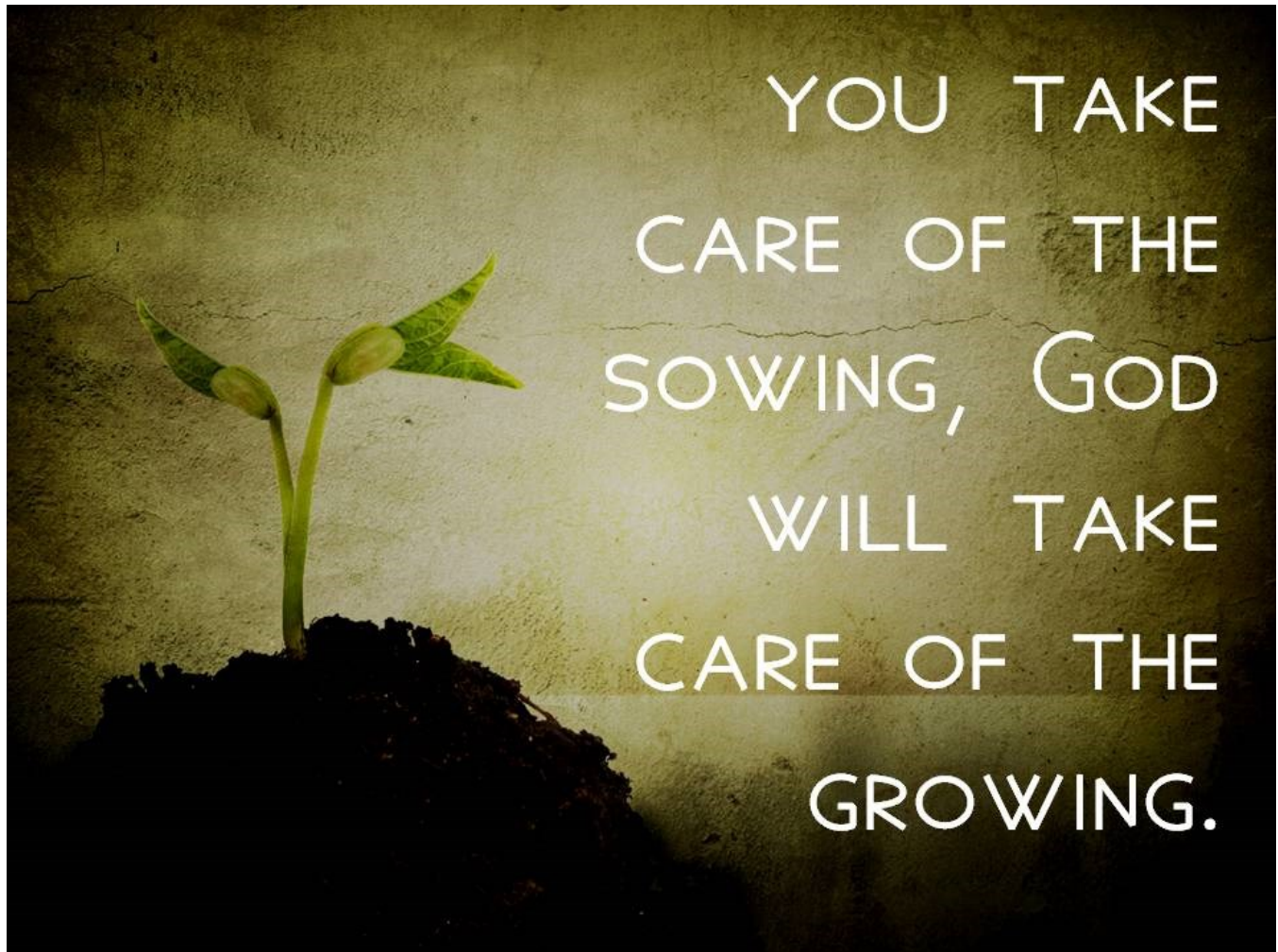


*New Life Lutheran Church
Little Bethany Lutheran Church
May 7, 2023
5th Sunday of Easter/ Seeds of Hope Sunday*



Little Bethany & New Life Lutheran Churches
Pastor Randy Whitehead

“Disciples of Jesus Growing Disciples of Jesus”

Office: 102 Main Ave W Rothsay, MN • (218) 867-6557 • newlife@rtelnet.net

Deadlines: Sunday announcements - Tuesday A.M., Newsletter - 15th of month

Website: www.newlifeparish.net

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION for Pastor Randy:
701-238-1863 or 218-238-6060.

Email: PastorRandy@newlifeparish.net

Office Manager: Patrice Ziegler - newlife@rtelnet.net

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:30 pm.

**Little Bethany & New Life Lutheran Churches
May 7, 2023**

Pastor: Randy Whitehead
Readers:
Organist: Joyce Peterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Almighty God, on this Seeds of Hope Sunday we ask you to grant your blessing upon the seeds, the soil, the water, those who labor in the fields, and for all of creation. Lord, to continue to bless the seeds of cooperation and commitment, faith and hope in our community. Bless us, and your whole church, as we strive to serve you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

LBW # 147

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: God, our Creator, you have ordered seedtime, sunshine, rain, and harvest. You have created the seed, the soil, and the water so there may be food for all people. Too often, Lord, we have failed to honor and care for these gifts.

C: **Almighty God, you have created all that we humans need to sustain our earthly lives. We confess that we have too often neglected to care for your creation. We have carelessly used the soil, air, and water. We have forgotten how to love, and we have forsaken the needs of future generations. Our concern too often is for our immediate satisfaction, and our greed threatens others, both present and future. Forgive us, and set us on a new pathway—one more pleasing to you. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Through Jesus Christ, God knows us and accepts us as we are. God hears our prayers and forgives us all our sins. Rise up renewed and refreshed on the pathway of life.

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."



⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS

CHILDRENS SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!* **LBW # 352**

OFFERING (Offering will be received during the hymn of the day)
You can use the QR code to give online



OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)
For the hospitality of your good earth,
for the people you have given us to love,
for the task you called us to do,
we give thanks, gracious God.
Receive our offerings as a testimony of our faith and
gratitude. Amen

THE BLESSING OF THE SEEDS, THE SOIL, AND THE WATER

Blessing of the Seeds

P: Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, you give seed to the sower and bread for food,
C: **Nourish, protect, and bless the seed which we sow in hope, so that by your good providence and bountiful giving it may bring forth fruit in due season and be gathered with heart-felt thanksgiving to satisfy the needs of all your creation.**

Blessing of the Soil

P: O Loving Lord, Eternal Giver of Life, We give thanks that we again behold on every side the awakening of nature in answer to your call to arise from winter's sleep;
C: **As you cheer our spirits with freshening grass, budding trees, and unfolding plants, grant us ever-grateful hearts, able to praise you for the promise of your provision. Bless the soil from which so many blessings spring, and give us courage to cling always to your unchanging love for us and all people.**

Blessing of the Water

P: Gracious God, Fountain of Living Water

C: Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil and the seed. Gift the soil, the seed, and the sower with gentle rain. Let it come at the right time, in the proper amounts so that the seed may flourish and grow. Bless this water, and send us favorable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful.

P: Let us pray:

C: God, our Creator, you have ordered seedtime, sunshine, rain, and harvest. You have created the seed, soil and water so there may be food for all your people. May we honor and care for these elements that sustain our earthly life. As the food nourishes our body may we be filled with praise and thanksgiving for our Creator. Amen

THE PRAYERS

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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 and ever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

SENDING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

LBW # 520

BENEDICTION

P: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,

C: And you give them their food in due season.

P: You open wide your hand,

C: And satisfy the needs of all your children.

P: The Lord God bless you and keep you as you go out into his world. His face shine on you and shower you with his grace. The Lord give you breath and life, full and abundant, now and forever.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

May 7th - Seeds of Hope Sunday

9:00 am Coffee Hour at New Life

9:00 am Last Day of Sunday School at New Life

10:00 am Joint Worship at New Life with Little Bethany,
Sunday School sings

11:00 am Lunch at New Life

May 8th - 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan

May 10th - 6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation

6:30 pm Wow

6:30 pm NLLC Council meeting

May 11th - 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan

May 14th - Mother's Day

8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany

9:00 am Coffee Hour

10:00 am Worship at New Life



Vacation Bible School

June 4th - June 8th

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The VBS program will be on June 8th at 5:45 pm.

This event is for children currently in 4 year old Pre-K through 5th grade. Please sign-up at newlifeparish.net or visit;

[https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=a2133e54-2968-4e16-a9d0-](https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=a2133e54-2968-4e16-a9d0-d9e81cd58b4e&fbclid=IwAR2wk2yjWLiBRJFwuHeBEg6XmR8T5O4wsV079HxfIKitZhyUte1hO8Fdd5g)

[d9e81cd58b4e&fbclid=IwAR2wk2yjWLiBRJFwuHeBEg6XmR8T5O4wsV079HxfIKitZhyUte1hO8Fdd5g](https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=a2133e54-2968-4e16-a9d0-d9e81cd58b4e&fbclid=IwAR2wk2yjWLiBRJFwuHeBEg6XmR8T5O4wsV079HxfIKitZhyUte1hO8Fdd5g)

We are in need of volunteers, food donations and/or monetary donations to purchase supplies. If you are willing to help, please find the volunteer and donation lists at the church, or indicate VBS with your donation.

We appreciate all of your support to make our Vacation Bible School an amazing experience for everyone!

Confirmation Orientation

May 10th 6:00 pm

We will have a brief introduction to Confirmation for any students that will be entering 7th grade or higher in the 2023-2024 school year and their parents.

Dinner and Worship on Wednesdays (WOW) will be held following orientation, all are welcome to attend WOW.

Community Baccalaureate Service

May 24th at 7:00 pm

at the Rothsay Baptist Church

The Rothsay community and all Rothsay Public School graduating seniors, along with their friends and family, are invited to a service in their honor.

Congratulations Seniors!

Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 29th at 10:00 am

at New Life Lutheran Church

Lunch to following in the fellowship hall.