

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

All Will Be Made Well

Greetings Northwood Church Family,

I pray you are all doing well. We've had a number of folks with successful medical procedures these past few weeks and our congregational prayers for continued healing go towards them. We've also had the Boy Scouts create their own "Summer Camp" in our back lot this week as well as various sites around Esko; we pray for their enjoyment and safe convening to continue. We had some of the rain we've all been praying for so fervently. Finally, the work inside the church building is moving forward (see photos on page 3), allowing the new child care program to be rated and approved by the appropriate state and county authorities. For all of this, we give thanks and share our gratitude with God and one another.

And then there is bad stuff. I'm not going to name it here, but we know it exists AND it is okay to say so. The bible names bad stuff too. Sometimes it names it explicitly; look no further than every minor and major prophet in the old testament for examples. Other times, the scriptures are more general. Jesus' regular use of parables allows modern disciples to find many ways to apply his teachings to our lives.

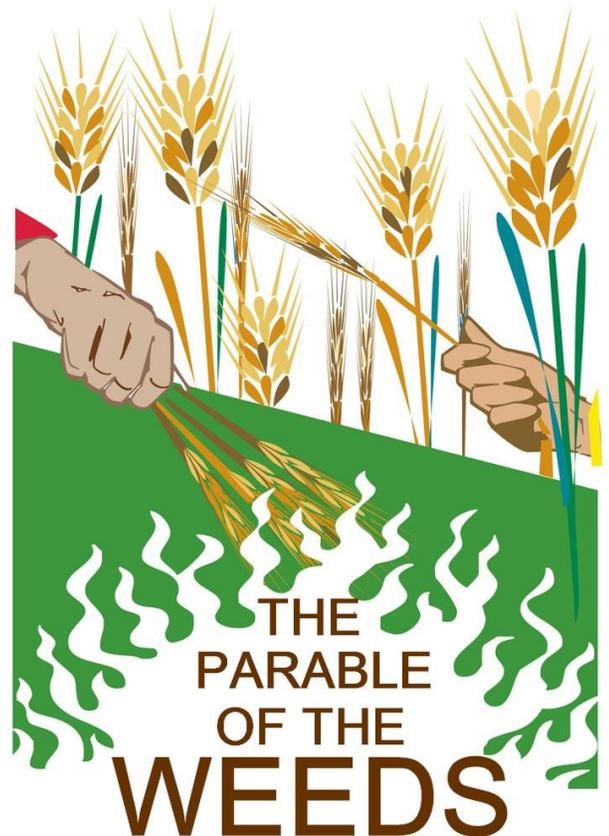
This week, our scripture study of Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 gives us a glimpse of Jesus' own teachings about what to do when the 'bad stuff' shows up. This is the story of the wheat and the weeds, and we are told that 'an enemy' has come among the fields to sow weeds, or 'bad stuff', among the good plants. Instead of rooting out the weeds, Jesus says, "Nope. Wait until it all grows up and we'll harvest it all at once. Then the weeds will be burned and the wheat will be preserved."

When I read this week's scripture lesson, I think it offers us ways to find fulfillment in the midst of bad things being in our midst, without distracting us from our primary purpose. Our job — as a congregation, as disciples, as a people of faith — is to bear fruit that nourishes God's Love and those around us. It does not mean denying there are weeds around us as well. There will always be some who do mean and wrong things. Yet we can deprive the Enemy instead of ourselves, by continuing to live lives worthy of the Christ we follow. We continue to practice grace and forgiveness, patience and love, healing and support. And should any of us despair at seeing all the weeds, it is the opportunity of our community to remind one another that the final harvest is coming — and all will be made well.

In the meantime, let's lift one another up in prayer, support each other as best we can, and keep growing for the Kingdom.

Peace to you in your week,

Pastor Brian



Matthew 13:24-30