12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP - PSALM: Psalm 67

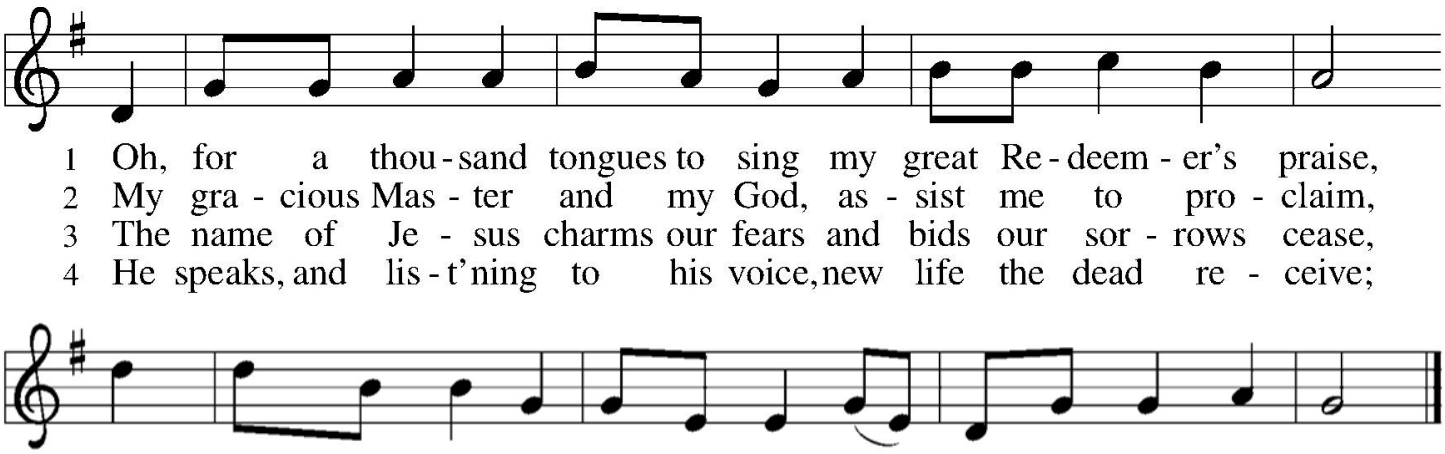
1 May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
2 **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
3 Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
4 **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.
5 Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
6 **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
7 May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW 886)



5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (ELW P. 184)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

1 Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.
6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

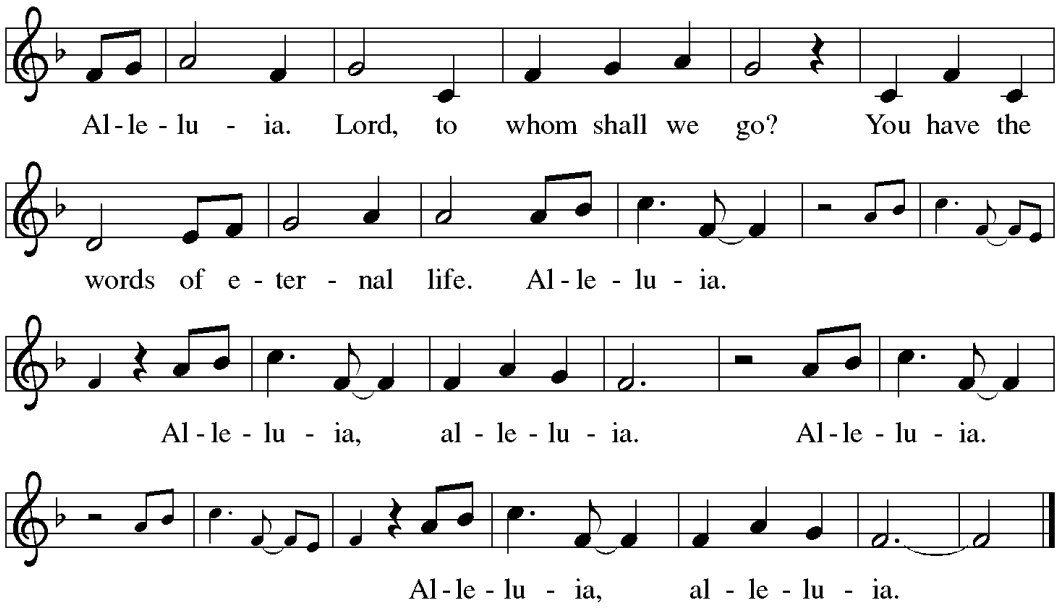
[8] Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.
Paul writes:] [1] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. [2a] God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

[29] For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. [30] Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, [31] so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. [32] For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

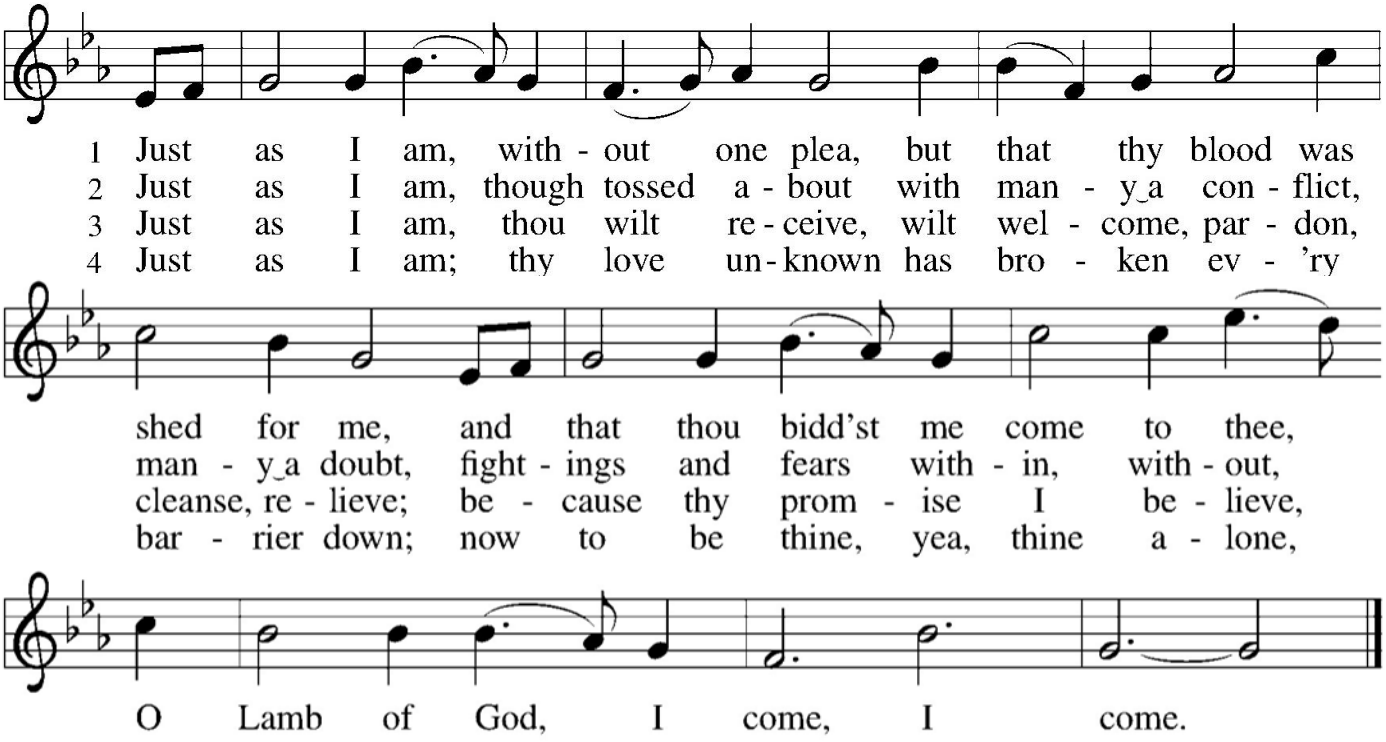
The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[[10] [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: [11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” [12] Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” [13] He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. [14] Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” [15] But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” [16] Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? [17] Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? [18] But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. [19] For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. [20] These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

[21] Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [22] Just then a

Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on
me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not
answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for
she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the
house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 He
answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said,
“Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then
Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed from that moment.
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Just As I Am, without One Plea* (ELW 592)



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: *Merciful God,* ***receive our prayer.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

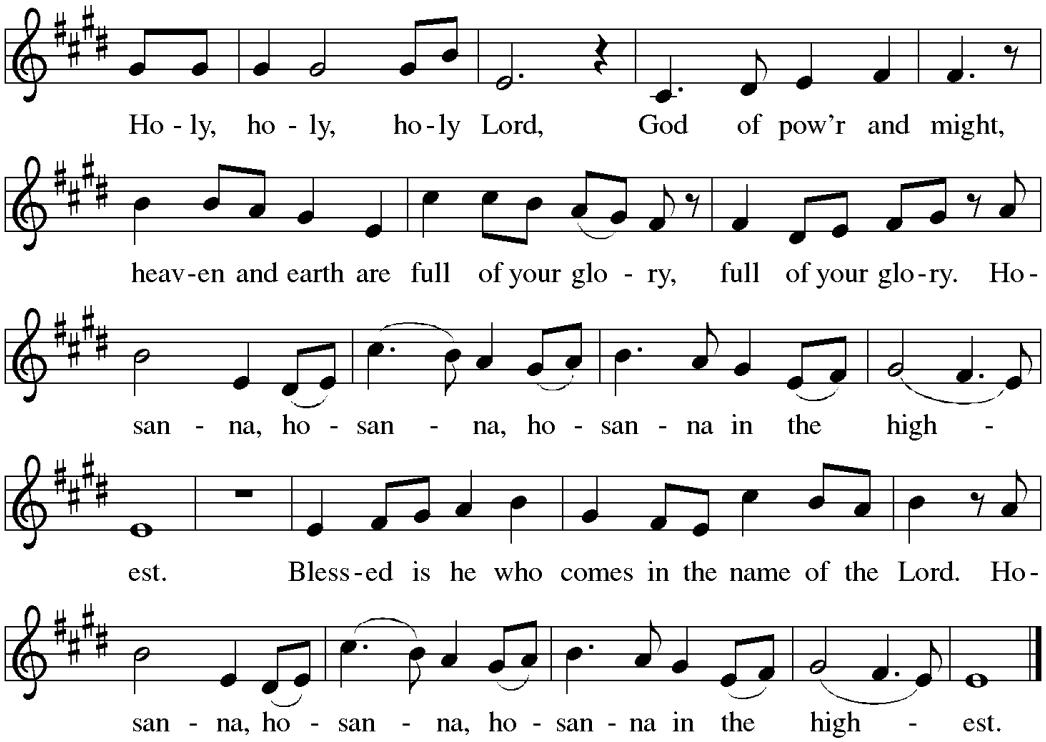
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

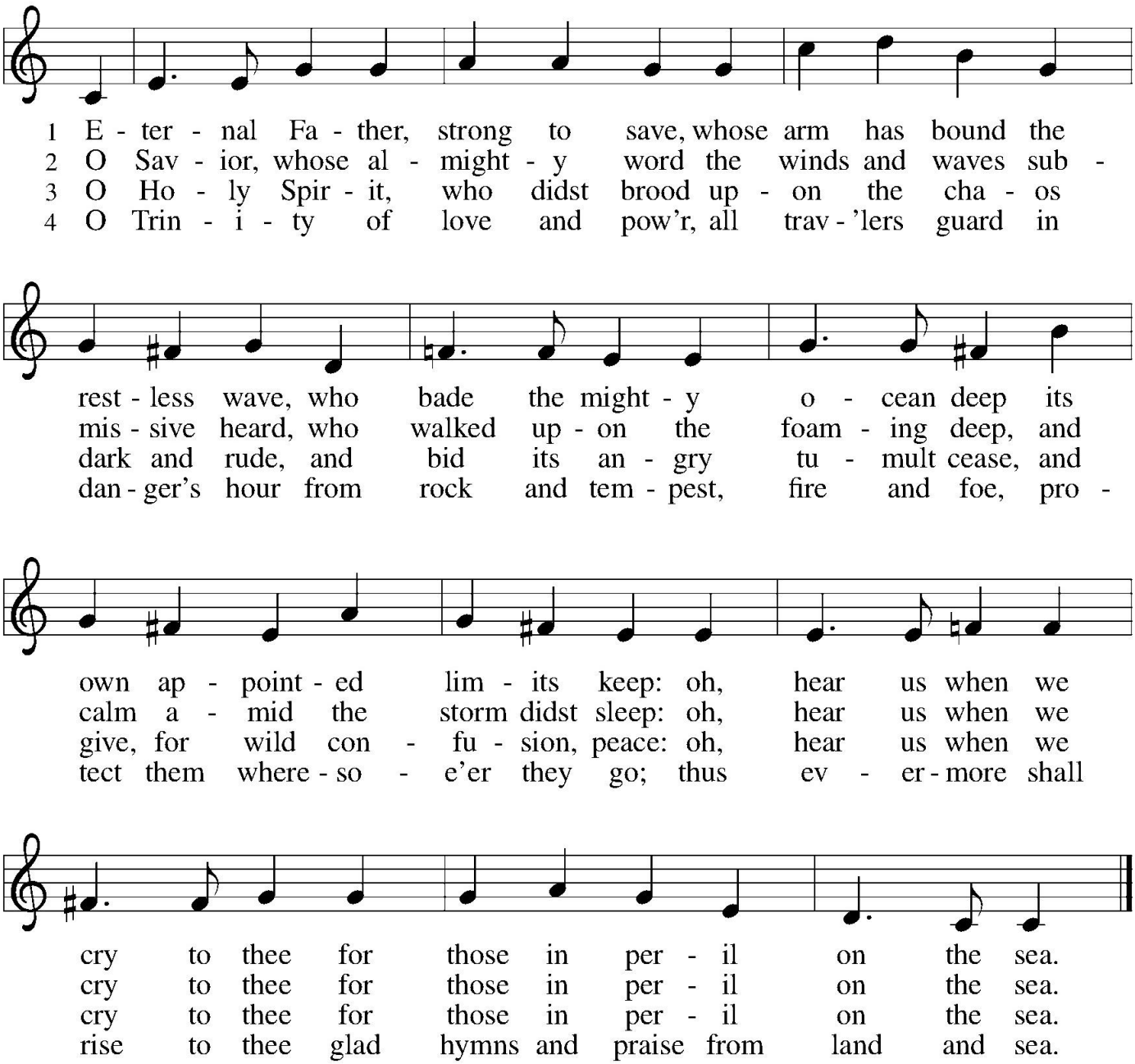
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
COMMUNION
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BLESSING
SENDING SONG *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* (ELW 756)



Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
Music: MELITA. John B. Dykes. 1823–1876

DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. All materials printed and livestreamed under Augsburg Fortress License: SBT007061 and OneLicense: A-712026

Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, August 18th – September Beacon Article dues.
- Tuesday, August 18th – W-ELCA Visit to those who are not able to attend worship. Meet at church at 8:30.
- Saturday, 4 pm August 22nd, Celebration of Life for Alan Marquardt, at Murray's on Main, Tomah.
- Sunday, August 30th – Back to School Blessing.
- September 5th – Joint Worship @ Bethany
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- A Lions Glass box is in the Bethany Narthex for disposal of old eyeglasses.
- Wednesday 9 am - Quilting
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany

---

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for those who have loss family and friends, especially the family and friends of Marian Lafortune.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Shirley Wehman, Joel Lingl (Galen's Brother), Mike Schultz, Shawna (Tim Parker's Sister), Aly (Deanna Smith's Niece), Sandy Hempel, Amy Andres Peterson (daughter of Tom & Roxanne Andres), Holly Berry, Dean Allard, Kalie Geitner (Galen & Janenne Lingl), Katie & Doug Johnson, Becky Bailey, Fred Wehman, Steve Werth, Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marilyn Wetley, and others we silently name.

Electronic giving is available via Vanco, using this QR Code: