19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**
9 You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.
10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.
12 **Why have you broken down its wall so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**
15 behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right | hand has planted.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

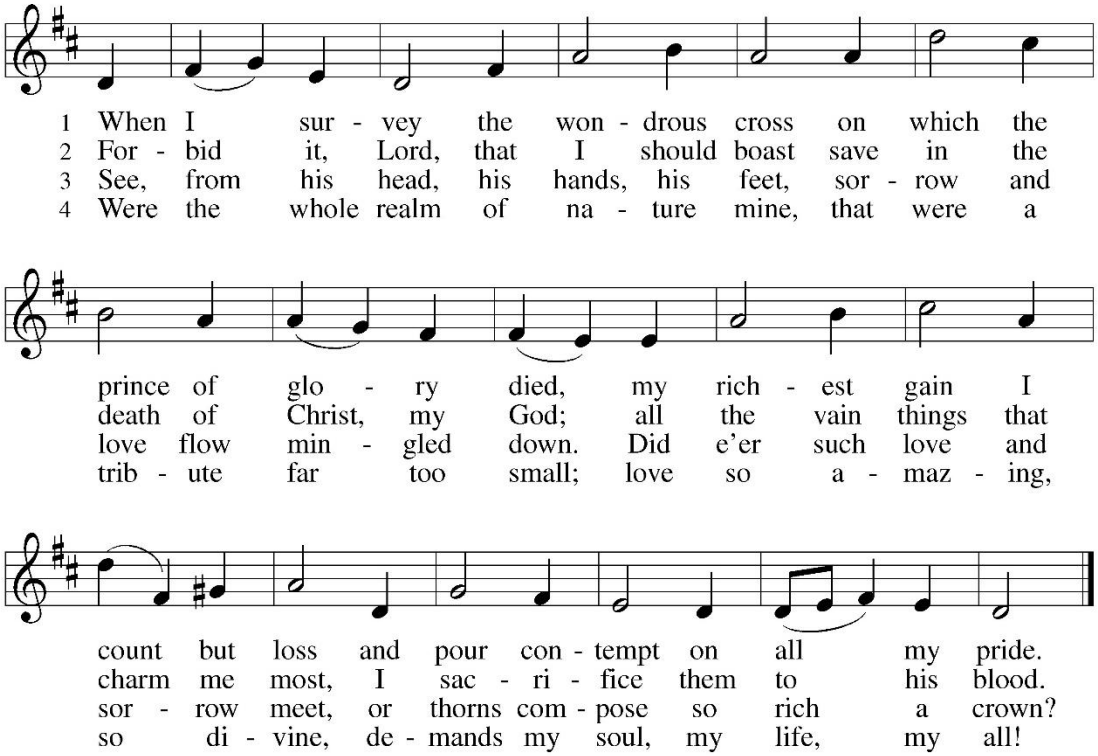
Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (ELW 803)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, **from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5: 1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. 3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be

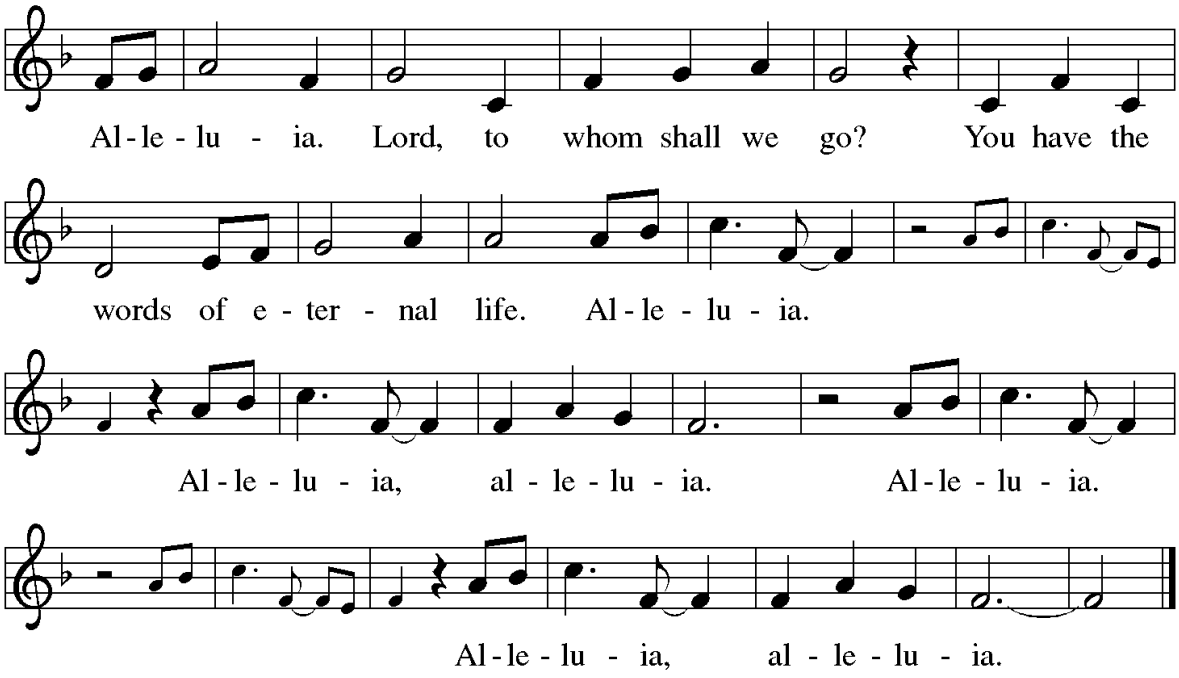
pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3: 4b-14

A reading from Philippians.
[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 21: 33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a
vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he
leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his
slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and
beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than
the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them,
saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to
themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39 So they
seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the
vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put
those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will
give him the produce at the harvest time.”

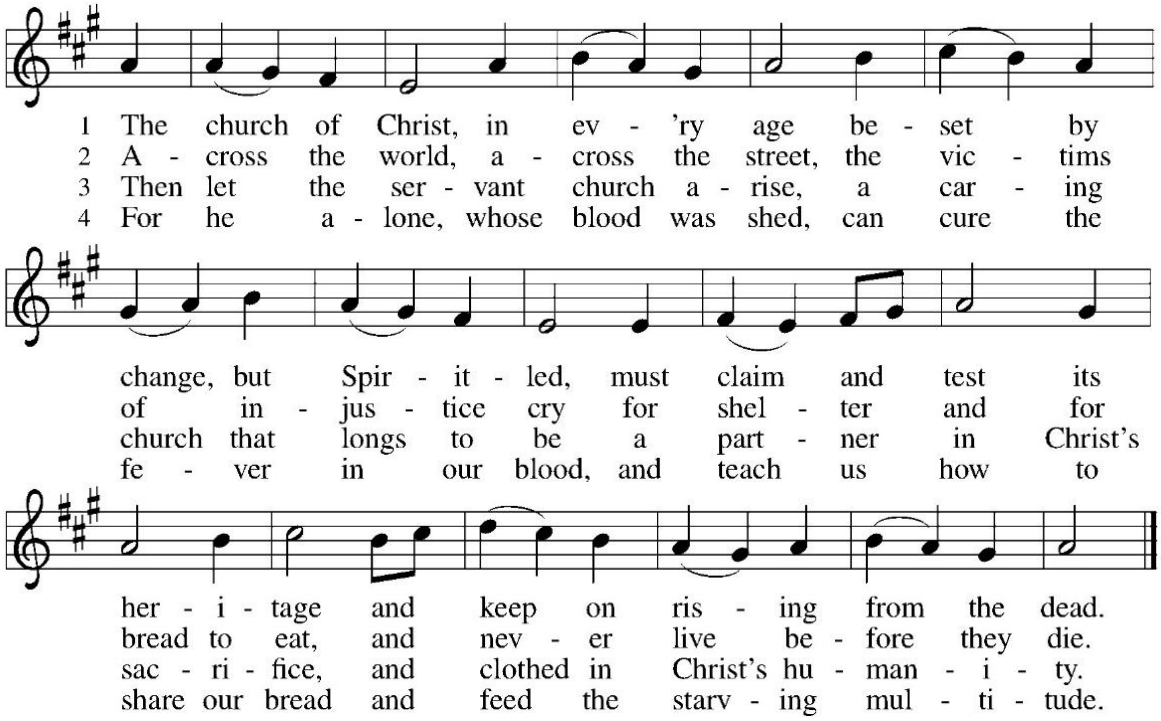
42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the
Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a
people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to
pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” 45 When the chief priests and the
Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They
wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a
prophet. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* (ELW 729)



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

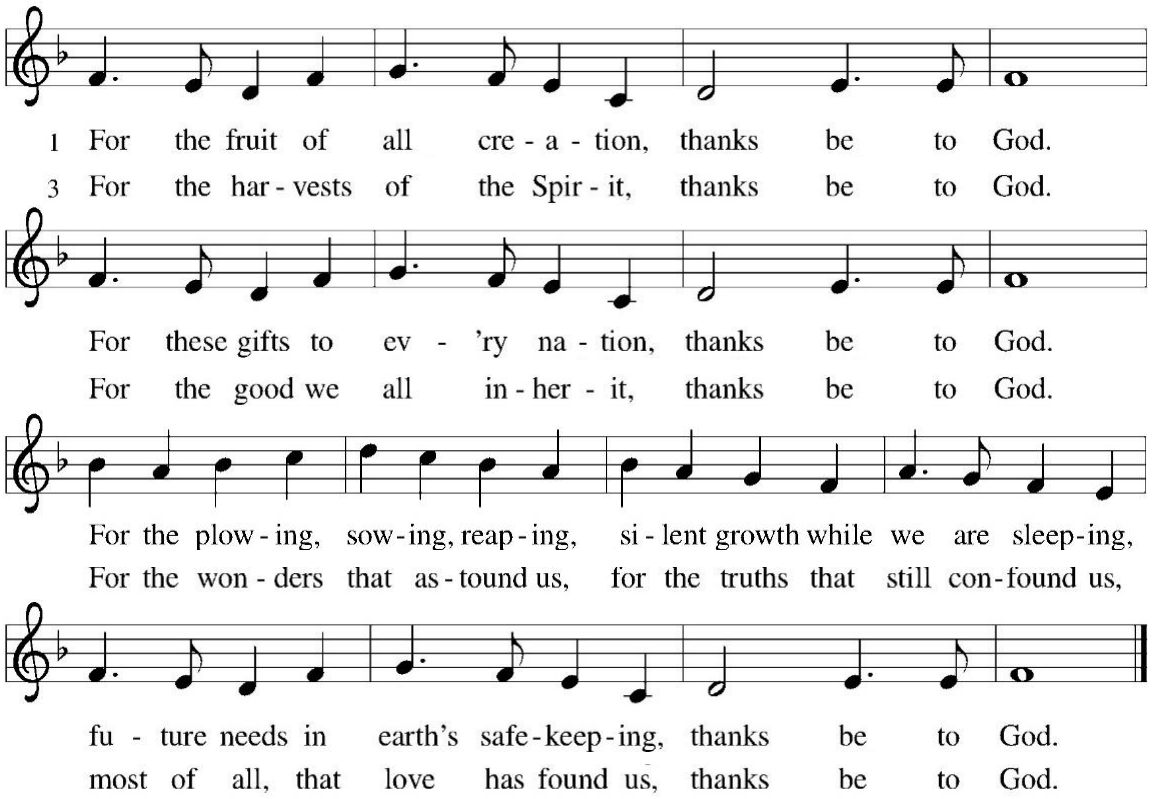
PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

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

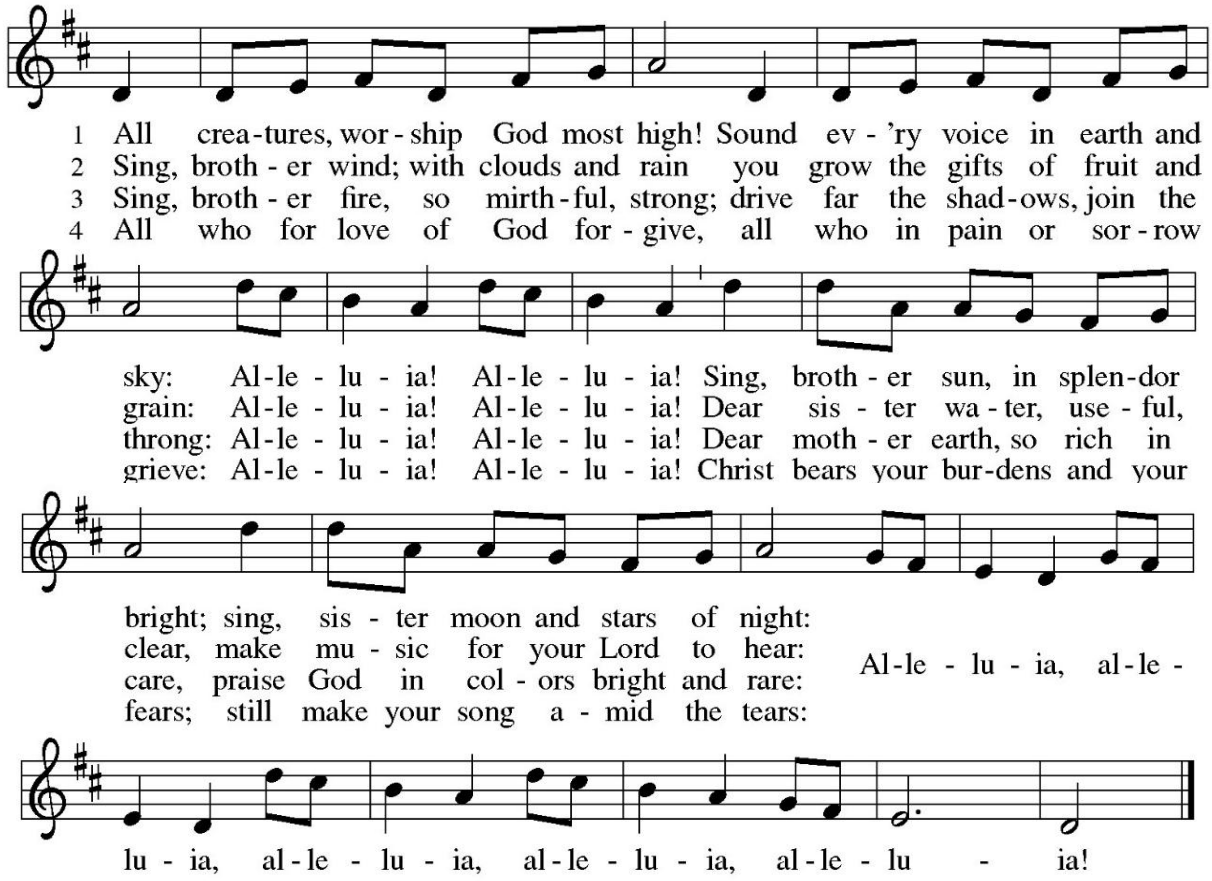
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* (ELW 835)



Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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DISMISSAL

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October Food Pantry Theme is "'Meat' the Need" – canned meats, tuna, stew, hamburger/tuna helper
- October 4th (PM)– 6th Pastor Lucy Off for Fall Pastor Conference
- October 4th – Did someone say BINGO?! Come join us for Bethany Bingo on Sunday, October 4, after worship! Enjoy some fun, fellowship, and, of course, a little friendly competition! We'll also have a special cover-all prize up for grabs! And the best part—we have plenty of prizes already! Just bring yourself, grab a card, and come play! Everyone is welcome! We hope to see you there!
- October 11th – W-ELCA Meeting after worship
- October 17th – W-ELCA Fall Retreat, "I Am Worthy, She is Worthy" held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in La Crescent, MN. *Register by Friday October 9th*
- October 24th – East Lemonweir Fall Luncheon
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- Thursdays Bible Study: 9am @ Bethany
- Wednesday 9 am - Quilting
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany.

The Bethany Council is proposing a change to the Bethany Constitution and has approved sending the following amendment to the congregation for consideration:

"An Audit Committee of two voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council. Term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed each year."

This change removes the previous two-year term limit, allowing an individual to continue serving on the Audit Committee as long as they—and the Council—wish. It also provides continuity and consistency in carrying out Bethany's audit processes. Because constitutional changes require two congregational votes for approval, we will hold these votes **after worship on October 11 and October 18**. If you have any questions, please reach out to a Council member.

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for the family and friends who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Marcia Adams.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Bridgette Wehman, Ken Adams, Sonja Haske, Shirley Wehman, Joel Lingl (Galen's Brother), Mike Schultz, 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, 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: