Tenth Week after Pentecost August 17, 2025

Service Music: Setting 8 (ELW, Page 184)
Proper 15 / Lectionary 20, Year C (ELW, Page 45)



The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history.

He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presider.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You may find a simple prayer helpful, such as: "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Lord, you see all things. I open my heart to you."

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 393 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

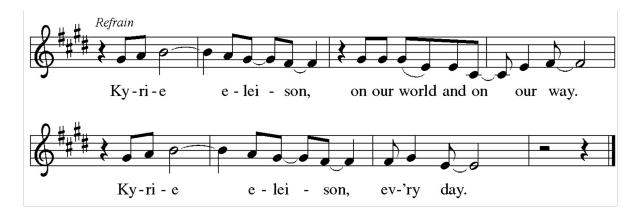
P: Let us pray.

C: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison means, "Lord, have mercy." This prayer has been repeated by the Church for many centuries to ask for God's blessing. When we sing it we join the whole Church in petition and praise.

Congregational Refrain



Leader: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregational Refrain

Leader: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregational Refrain

Leader: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregational Refrain

Leader: For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregational Refrain

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29 (Pew Bible O.T. pg. 726)

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 82 (read responsively)

- ¹ God stands to charge the Divine Council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
 - ⁶ Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;
 - ⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' "
- 8 Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2 (Pew Bible N.T. pg. 226)

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

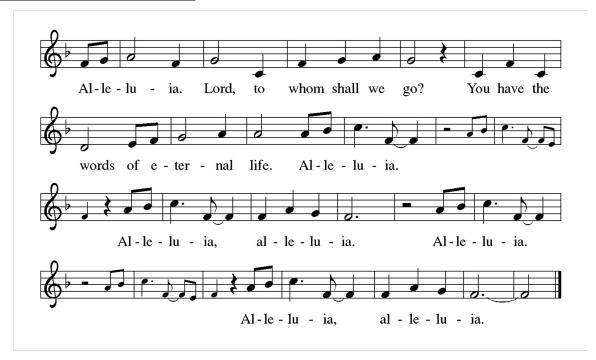
³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **St. Luke 12:49-56** (Pew Bible N.T. pg. 75) **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see

the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The assembly rises in body or spirit for the Affirmation of Baptism.

Refer to bulletin insert for congregational responses.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry

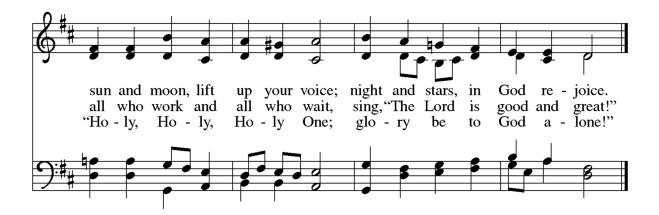
The assembly remains standing for the Hymn of the Day.

During the Hymn of the Day water will be brought to the congregation from the baptismal font. Wet your fingers in the basin and make the sign of the cross on your forehead. Some water may cascade over the assembly from the Presider.

The Hymn of the Day is printed on the following page.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry





PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

Greet one another by shaking hands with a word of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A: Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality.

Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

A: Safeguard rivers like the Maquoketa, Cedar, Iowa, Wapsi, Mississippi, and Rock Rivers from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources.

Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. We pray for the people of **Sudan** who are facing a hunger crisis due to famine.

Make peace in places of conflict, especially **Ukraine**, **Iran**, **and the Holy Land** and bring mercy to each community. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great**.

A: Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound, especially Amanda, Barry, Bev, Carol, Donna, Donnie, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Jenn, Joseph, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Maggie, Mark, Michelle, Phil, Ruthann, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, Ted, and Wally. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the safety of first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony**, **Brandon**, **Eli**, **and Nathan**. Heal the land and waterways affected by flooding in Central Texas. Comfort families as they mourn the loss of loved ones. Keep safe those who assist in cleanup efforts in the days and weeks to come. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us, especially **Bernard**, whom we commemorate* this week. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **C: Amen.**

MEAL

OFFERING your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

*See announcement for commemorations.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 185 Create in Me a Clean Heart



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

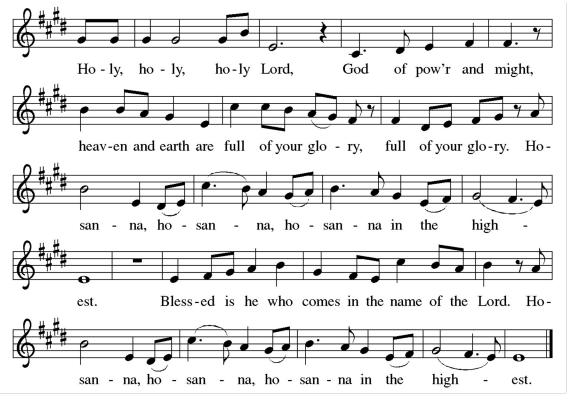
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Bernard and all your holy ones, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **C: Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **C: Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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

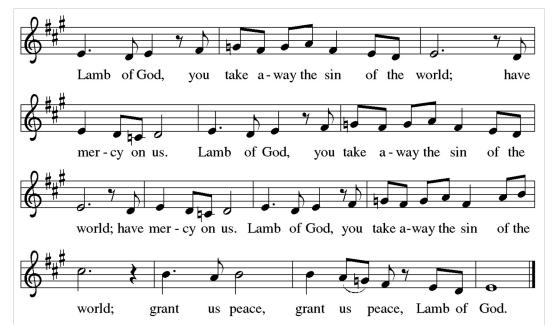
P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. All are welcome.

C: Thanks be to God.

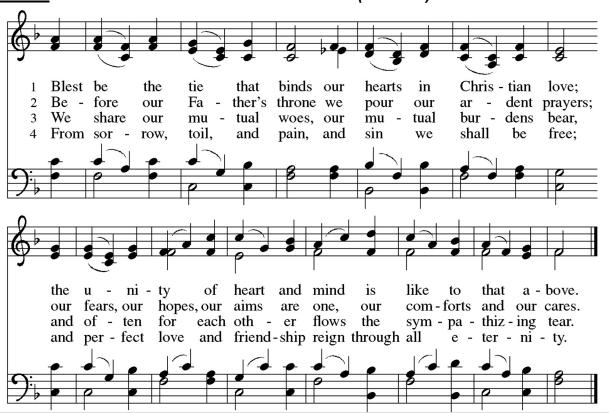
The assembly is seated.

Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

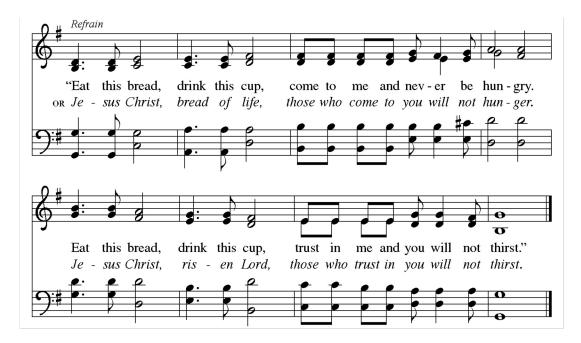
Lamb of God



HYMN ELW 656 Blest Be the Tie that Binds (favorite)



HYMN ELW 472 Eat this Bread (sing 3 times)



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Nurturing God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **C: Amen**

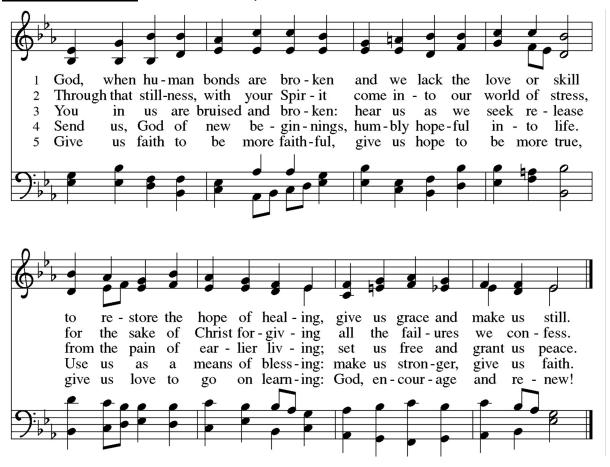
SENDING

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

SENDING BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior + Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 603 God, When Human Bonds are Broken



<u>AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION</u>

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ in gratitude to God and service to others, all the days of your life? **C: I will, and I ask God to help me.** P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C: Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last week:

Saturday 35

Sunday 58 YouTube 7

Birthdays this week:

8/18 Steve Miller II

8/20 Justina Pessein

8/21 Bob Jacob

8/22 Tony White

8/23 Erik Bakken

Anniversaries this week:

8/20 Kelly & Deb Crooks

The flowers today are given by Bob & Connie Jacob.

<u>8/21</u>—St. James GANG. SIGN UP for the St. James GANG in the Narthex. The August 21st meeting will be a pizza party. It is necessary to have an accurate number coming so there is plenty of pizza. Please bring \$5 instead of your own meal. See you at 11:30 a.m.!

<u>8/27</u>—Communications Guild. If you are a person who loves St. James, would you be willing to meet with others to explore various ways to tell our story? Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00 p.m. and contact Bryce or the Church Office at 563-355-4161 if you are interested.

<u>9/14</u>—Coffee and Conversation—This is a time where we ponder questions about current events and cultural trends in light of our Christian faith. This is an intentional time for conversation and prayer facilitated by Bryce. No sign-up required. All are welcome.

<u>Bulletins</u>—We are experimenting with a minimalistic worship folder option to conserve resources. If you are willing to use the ELW and pew bible for readings and hymns, please contact the office to inform the production process. Church office—563-355-4161.

<u>Confirmation Classes</u>—An email was sent to the congregation with a survey about who would be interested in participating in Confirmation classes. For more information, contact Maddie Schmidt at 563-570-6354.

<u>Altar Guild</u>—The Altar Guild is looking for more members to join their team! If you're interested in joining the Altar Guild, contact the church office at (563)355-4161; stjamesbett@gmail.com.

COMMEMORATIONS (ELW, pg. 14-17)

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153 Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

YouTube Livestream

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g QWtn I2SqpL5Q

Youtube Channel QR Code:



Worship Assistants

August 17

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolyte

Music Minister

Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

August 24

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolyte Organist: Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

August 31

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolyte

Music Minister

Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild Counters

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Maddie Schmidt Judie Brooks Velvet Collison Steve Abel

Ryan Martin & Kelly Crooks

Deb Crooks

Pat Larson & Mary Meumann

Glenn Boyles

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Caroline Hicks Shirley Richlen Edi Southwell Linda Gross

Ryan Martin & Ellen Hogbin

Deb Crooks

Shirley Richlen & Terry Martens

Glenn Boyles

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Shirley Richlen Judie Brooks Rilynne & Carter Steve Abel

Jerry & Yvonne Nichols

Deb Crooks

Ellen Hogbin & Terry Martens

Glenn Boyles

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sherry Germanio, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, LaVonne Mienke, Mark Peters

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Donna (Ed Arp's sister),
Donnie (friend of Deb Crooks), Drew (Pat Larson's friend),
Emmett (friend of Diana Worley), Hattie (Frieda's sister),
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Jenn (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice), Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim),
Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Maggie Bayliss, Mark (friend of Jason Forari),
Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Ruthann (Justina's mom),
Stan (relative of Frtiz Voss), Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law),
Wally (Frieda's nephew)

Military Personnel

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
Lt. Col. Brandon Sandoval USAF (Pat Larson's grandson)
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

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August / September 2025

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.	18	19 1PM Sarah Circle 6-8PM Kids Club	20 6-8PM Food Pantry	21 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG 2PM Bingo @ Community	22	23 5:00PM Saturday Service
24 9AM Worship	25	26 12-4PM Quilting	27 6PM Communications Guild 6-8PM Food Pantry	28 9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM Service at BETT Health Care Center	29	30 5:00PM Saturday Service
31 9AM Worship	9/1	9/2	9/3 6-8PM Food Pantry	9/4 9-11AM Food Pantry	9/5	9/6 5:00PM Saturday Service
9/7 9AM Worship	9/8 4PM Social Ministry Mtg.	9/9	9/10 6-8PM Food Pantry	9/11 9-11AM Food Pantry	9/12	9/13 5:00PM Saturday Service